

US caught off guard by EC initiative

Hurd wary of Europe's peace move on Gulf

By MICHAEL BINYON, MICHAEL KNIFE AND MARTIN FLETCHER

BRITAIN appeared to be at odds with its partners last night as the European Community prepared to make a last-ditch effort to avert war in the Gulf.

Following the announcement of a special EC meeting both Britain and the United States cautioned against giving the wrong signals to President Saddam Hussein. The foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, gave a warning that Iraq must not be given the impression that the world was ready to do a deal.

At an emergency meeting on Friday the Community is expected to agree on seeking direct talks with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister. The special envoy to Baghdad would be Jacques Poos, the foreign minister of Luxembourg, the country which assumes the EC presidency today.

Mr Poos said yesterday that if he receives that authorisation he will make immediate contact with the Iraqis and set off as soon as possible before the UN January 15 deadline by which Iraqi forces must be out of Kuwait. Luxembourg has arranged the emergency meeting in the Grand Duchy

at the request of several member states who believe not all the channels of diplomacy have been exhausted.

"There is a chance, not a good chance, for peace as long as the issues are clear and not blurred," Mr Hurd told BBC radio. For its part, the Bush administration reacted cautiously to the idea of a European initiative, with officials privately expressing anxiety that it could lead to an unwelcome compromise with Iraq. Apparently caught off guard by the EC's move, the American officials said they hoped the US would be able to consult Community leaders before any direct talks.

"We are not dismissing this as a bad thing, but the other part of it is we would not wish to see any partial solution offered," said one official. But Mr Poos said in a television interview that there was no question of a partial solution.

As the EC announcement was made King Hussein of Jordan revealed that he will travel to London and other European capitals this week in another attempt to find an Arab solution. In the Gulf itself, Iraq accused Western navies of piracy after an Iraqi-registered tanker was boarded on suspicion that it was carrying embargoed goods for Baghdad. It was found to be empty.

Few diplomats either in London or Luxembourg expect much to come of any EC meeting with Mr Aziz. All underline the importance of the West standing together, and being seen both in Washington and Baghdad to be ready to bear the costs and sacrifices of a war. However Britain will take a firmer line than several countries pressing for more time before an attack is launched. These include France, Germany, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Luxembourg.

Mr Poos told the BBC that he was ready to discuss all aspects of the Middle East conflict, including the Arab-Israeli conflict. But he refused to make any direct linkage between the Gulf and the Palestinian question, as Iraq has demanded.

He said he would tell the Iraqis that they had to fulfil the United Nations Resolu-

tion 678 "without any restraint" before other Middle East questions could be discussed.

He has already suggested that Mr Aziz could be invited to Friday's meeting. Last month the Community confirmed its decision not to hold talks with Mr Aziz unless he first met President Bush in Washington.

Mr Hurd clashed publicly with Edward Heath yesterday over how best to resolve the confrontation in the Gulf. He accused the former Conservative prime minister of blurring the issues and thus lessening the prospects of a peaceful outcome. Mr Heath had welcomed the idea of an EC mission saying such a mission was long overdue and should be greatly welcomed. He accused the West of not having put sufficient effort into diplomatic initiatives to resolve the confrontation peacefully.

Mr Heath said he did not accept that the Americans were operating with the sanction of the UN because it had not done anything about the diplomatic initiative required by paragraph three of the first UN resolution 660, which calls for Iraq and Kuwait to settle their differences.

"To have the president of the most powerful country in the world saying 'I'm going to kick Saddam up the arse', isn't international politics," said Mr Heath on Radio 4's *The World at One*. "It isn't diplomacy at all. Tens of thousands of lives depend on this and the whole of the world economy."

Speaking on the same programme immediately afterwards, Mr Hurd appeared to be irritated by Mr Heath. "If you want a reason for the caution which we show about separate Community initiatives you just have to listen to Ted Heath."

Cautioning against premature expectations of an EC initiative to send Mr Poos to Baghdad, Mr Hurd said the only initiative under way was the calling of the meeting of Community foreign ministers.

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MP gets all clear for army service

By LIN JENKINS

A CONSERVATIVE MP is volunteering to serve in a medical support team in the Gulf after defence ministry lawyers spent several days checking to see whether, as a member of Parliament, he was eligible.

Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon, south-west London, will rejoin the Life Guards as a surgeon-captain. The defence ministry said it believed that he would be the first MP to serve in uniform since the second world war.

Dr Goodson-Wickes, an occupational physician, said: "It took several days before I was told that I was eligible as an MP. I had resigned my commission in 1977 to stand for Parliament, and while I was compulsorily on the reserve list for some years I have since volunteered to be on it."



Goodson-Wickes: back in surgeon-captain's uniform

His wife Hoppy and two sons support his decision. "Being young boys they are rather excited about it and my wife has been an army wife. In fact, I went straight from my honeymoon to serve in Northern Ireland."



Last goodbye: Dame Joan Sutherland arriving for rehearsals at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, yesterday. Devoted fans had queued for up to 48 hours for a chance to see her farewell appearance on the stage where she was first propelled into the international spotlight more than 30 years ago. The theatre traditionally keeps

more than 50 tickets for sale on performance day. It was to buy these for last night's production of *Die Fledermaus*, also starring Luciano Pavarotti, that admirers, fortified by bottles of wine, queued so determinedly. A spokesman for the opera house said he could not remember when last there was such a demand for tickets.

Six killed in road crashes as driving rain sweeps UK

By DAVID YOUNG AND KERRY GILL

DRIVING rain throughout Britain is thought to have contributed to the deaths of six people in road accidents yesterday.

Two people were killed on the M27 in Hampshire when a van crashed through the central reservation and hit a Vauxhall Cavalier. A man and a woman in the Cavalier died and a girl, aged 14, and a boy, aged 16, were seriously injured.

A petrol tanker travelling behind the Cavalier struck the van and skidded 100 yards before bursting into flames. The driver escaped.

The accident happened in what police described as "monstrous conditions".

In another crash, Stephen Coughlan, aged 50, died with his daughter, Sophie, aged nine, and a family friend Patrick Wrenn, aged 78, when their car collided with a Range Rover in the Peak District. The accident happened just a few miles from the Coughlan's home in Barber Booth, Edale.

In Gloucestershire, a mother taking her baby for a walk in her pram was killed and the baby seriously injured when they were hit by a car at Inchbrook on the A46 between Stroud and Nailsworth. The baby, who has not been named, is "poorly" in hospital.

In Scotland the Northern

Constabulary said that so many motorists were calling their headquarters that it was seriously affecting operational efficiency. A spokesman urged motorists to phone the Roadline number 0463 222441.

The forecast for today is that a strong southwest wind will bring rain across all of the British Isles.

More than 2,000 skiers yesterday managed to make their way on to slopes in the Cairngorms after being frustrated by blocked roads at the weekend. A spokesman for the

Cairngorm Chairlift Company said some 600 cars reached the ski centre after the access road was cleared.

"Conditions are very, very good, almost alpine and we are now looking forward to a good spell of excellent skiing," he said. At the Aonach Mor centre near Fort William more than 800 people reached the slopes in spite of the A82 Glasgow to Fort William road being blocked by huge drifts at Glencoe. Centres at the Lecht and Glenshee were open.

Many routes in the Highlands were closed.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Protest over shooting

By PETER VICTOR

DUBLIN last night expressed concern over the shooting at a Royal Marine checkpoint south of Armagh in which one man died and another was seriously injured. Sinn Féin called the incident another example of a shoot-to-kill policy.

Seamus Mallon, the SDLP MP, deplored the fact that the soldiers involved were back on patrol, and the Irish government said it would raise the matter at meeting of the Anglo-Irish conference. Lord Belstead, Northern Ireland law and order minister, prom-

ised a full and independent enquiry by the senior RUC detectives.

Fergal Caragher was shot dead and his brother Michael injured when troops fired on their car on Sunday evening. The army said their car failed to stop at a checkpoint and struck two soldiers.

The Caragher family and eye witnesses said that the brothers were allowed through one checkpoint and were fired on at a roadblock 100 yards further on.

Family's anger, page 3

Major pledges to continue policies of privatisation

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A STRONG pledge to continue the privatisation policies that were a central feature of Margaret Thatcher's government was delivered yesterday by John Major.

As Neil Kinnock fired an early shot in a Labour campaign to lay blame for the recession on the prime minister, Mr Major gave a specific promise to sell off more state industries in a new year message which otherwise contained few direct policy commitments.

With ministers boosted by the popularity of the recent sale of the electricity distribution companies, he made plain that he wants to build on the share-buying revolution of the last decade. "We must continue to extend ownership," he said.

The prime minister's remarks provide important indications that promises to sell off remaining state industries, including British Rail and British Coal, will appear in the Tory election manifesto. They will encourage Conservative MPs who have doubted whether Mr Major's enthusiasm for privatisation matches that of his predecessor.

He is believed to be particularly keen to find a way to return the railways to the private sector and is known to have been concerned towards the end of his tenure as Chancellor of the Exchequer at reports suggesting that the transport department might be growing cool to the idea. Since his appointment as transport secretary, Malcolm Rifkind has stressed that he hopes to win a manifesto slot for BR privatisation; Mr Major's message suggests that he has a key ally.

Mr Kinnock, using his new year message to prepare his party for an election in 1991, said that while some of the style of the Thatcher years had been abandoned, the substance remained. He accused Mr Major of following policies that took the economy into a rut.

Mr Major's economic record will be highlighted in a sustained campaign to begin later this month in which Labour will set out its alternatives to revive manufacturing industry. Calling for relief from high interest rates, Mr Kinnock said Labour had the policies to turn Britain into a top class economy, an approach that would be impossible from a Tory gov-

ernment of recession and run-down.

Mr Major's first new year message as prime minister made a fresh appeal for party unity.

Conservatives wanted to build a truly open society in which every man and woman would be able to go as far as their talent, ambition and effort took them, where there were no artificial barriers of background, religion or race.

Mr Major went on to promise: "We shall continue to reduce the size of the state by privatising those industries which will work better in the private sector, giving their customers and the taxpayer better value for money."

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Macmillan cabinet worried by Kuwait

By BILL FROST

HAROLD Macmillan was unsure how to handle Nikita Khrushchev, who was at his most cantankerous in 1960, and took a long time to decide to address the infamous UN general assembly in which the Russian leader heckled him, according to cabinet papers made public today.

The papers give a graphic account of the low ebb the cold war had reached in 1960 and how the Paris "summit that never was" broke up over the U2 "spy" plane incident.

Then, as now, documents reflect anxiety over Iraqi designs on Kuwait. They show that the Chiefs of Staff were asked to consider an operation to dislodge Iraqi troops should they invade the territory, then under British control.

The papers also show that the Macmillan government bowed to American pressure on the siting of Polaris submarines on the Clyde and reveal the government's anxiety in 1960 that France would seek to blame Britain for putting the Channel Tunnel project on ice. Ministers felt the promoters were seeking financial support inappropriate to a private venture.

Airline plan abandoned

British Airways has abandoned its plan to invest £34 million in a new Brussels-based businessman's airline, in co-operation with KLM and Sabena. British Airways blamed delays affecting the project, which would have linked 75 cities throughout Europe.

Games appeal



MPs and councillors in Sheffield, are to appeal to Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for at least £4 million to try to salvage the World Student Games, which are due to be held in the city in June.

Jobs setback

Treasury funding for the Employment Training scheme was cut in the autumn partly as a result of an unpublished study by the Department of Employment, which revealed that employers were reluctant to give on-the-job training to participants.

Hungary deal

A last-minute appeal by Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, has secured agreement in parliament for a 1991 budget, opening the way for a vital emergency aid package from the International Monetary Fund. Hungary has Eastern Europe's largest per capita foreign debt.

Soviet confusion

The Soviet Union faces at best the prospect of a confused switch to a market economy, at worst paralysed industries, rampant inflation and widespread unrest, as it enters 1991 with neither an economic plan nor a budget for the first time since 1928.

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Three new names join battle in the lists

By ROBIN YOUNG

JESSICA, Georgina and Samuel have a new found popularity. The names are all newcomers this year to the annual list of first names announced in the birth columns of *The Times*. Georgina has featured once before, in 1977, but the others have never made it to the top ten since the first name lists were first compiled in 1962.

None of the new trio has yet reached the longer established, and more deeply conservative, list which charts all the names given in the announcements.

The late J W Leaver of Ruislip first provided us with his name count on this basis in 1947, when the champions were John and Anne. This year births were announced for 2,991 boys and 2,856 girls. Most (1,349 and 1,639 respectively) were given two

names: 901 boys and 518 girls received three names each, while a score of each sex had four. We announced 103 pairs of twins, (31 of boys, 33 girls and two mixed), and four sets of triplets (one each of boys and girls, and one mixed).

Finally our scrutiny of the records showed that James and Elizabeth (encompassing Elisabeth) remained unassailable all-round champions in the all name lists, James for the 27th successive year and Elizabeth for the 15th. Elizabeth's popularity in a supporting role did not win her any place in the girls' top ten of first names. In 1989 she scraped in tenth. Conceivably the regal associations of the name are found inhibiting, though it is notable that in spite of the advent of Samuel (ousting Robert, who finished ninth equal last year) seven of the top ten first names for boys are

those of past rulers. John, who once ruled the boys' lists as firmly as James does today, makes a modest comeback, improving from seventh to fifth in the all names list for boys. Henry reappears here too, reclaiming a place he had in 1988 but temporarily relinquished last year.

Among the girls more people love Lucy, up from eighth to third as a first name and from ninth to sixth in the girls' all name list. Alexandra made progress too, at the expense of Alice, Emma and Olivia in the first names list and of Sophie, Emily and Victoria in the young ladies' all names chart.

Sarah, who was head girl of the first name team in 1962 and in 1981 and 1984, lost her place there last year, and this year drops out of the all name stars as well.

Still, Eugenie did not show at all.

| Boys first names | Girls first names |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| James 180 (1) | Charlotte 64 (1) |
| Thomas 170 (2) | Sophie 62 (2) |
| Alexander 153 (4) | Lucy 75 (3) |
| William 123 (3) | Emily 70 (2) |
| Oliver 94 (7) | Alexandra 57 (7) |
| Charles 92 (8) | Alice 67 (5) |
| Edward 90 (5) | Emma 61 (4) |
| George 88 (6) | Jessica 60 (-) |
| Henry 82 (9) | Olivia 59 (6) |
| Samuel (-) | Georgina 55 (-) |
| All names | All names |
| James 431 (1) | Elizabeth 232 (1) |
| William 281 (2) | Charlotte 135 (2) |
| Alexander 257 (3) | Alice 128 (3) |
| Thomas 232 (5) | Alexandra 117 (8) |
| John 195 (7) | Sophie 109 (7) |
| Edward 181 (4) | Lucy 105 (9) |
| Charles 184 (6) | Emily 103 (4) |
| George 145 (8) | Victoria 99 (5) |
| David 143 (6) | Katherine 80 (-) |
| Harry 134 (-) | Emma 78 (8) |

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Britain was ready to defend oil-rich areas

IF ANYONE is unsure why Britain and America have committed so many forces to the Gulf, they need look no further than a top-secret directive in March 1960 from the Chiefs of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief of British forces in the Arabian peninsula.

It said that Britain had three strategic aims in the area and of these the most important was "security of the oil-producing areas in the Persian Gulf".

That interest in the area and particularly in the self-governing British protectorate of Kuwait was echoed in a letter on January 29 from Sir Richard Beaumont, head of the foreign office's Arabian department, to Sir George Middle-

ton, the political resident in the Persian Gulf, who was based in Bahrain.

He wrote that Britain's "irreducible interest" was that "Kuwait shall remain an independent state having an oil policy conducted by a government independent of other Middle East producers (or most of them) and also having a policy independent of communist or satellite influence: other interests, though most important, are subsidiary to this".

Britain was concerned in 1960 that Iraq would invade Kuwait. In the same letter Sir Richard wrote: "A corollary of this is that Kuwaiti independence will not be preserved unless any government,

By 1960 the Macmillan government had to accept that Britain could not bear the burden of great-power status. US-Soviet rivalry threatened a nuclear war. Bill Frost and Nicholas Watt report on cabinet papers showing how Britain tried to stay centre stage

which might wish to subvert or overthrow it, is convinced of Her Majesty's Government's willingness and ability to defend Kuwait by force of arms if necessary."

The Chiefs of Staff Committee showed its concern at possible Iraqi incursions in a top-secret note by their secretary on March 21, 1960. "Normal sources of intelligence will provide four days' warning of the concentration of

Iraqi forces in the Basra area and the air reconnaissance requirement is to provide warning of a subsequent move from Basra to Kuwait."

Britain was also worried about the spread of Arab nationalism from Egypt and the Cabinet papers showed that the government realised it would have to

give up some of its control over Kuwait. Selwyn Lloyd, the foreign secretary, reported to the cabinet in January that if Britain was to retain the Ruler of Kuwait's confidence the government would have to meet his wishes for accelerating the programme of loosening Britain's control.

However the papers also disclose that Britain was reluctant to do so and would grant concessions

only if approached by the Ruler. Sir Richard wrote in a confidential memo of March 24, on *Policy Towards Kuwait*, that Britain had secured the relationship with Kuwait by conceding to the Ruler on jurisdiction and by supporting his desire to join international bodies. He added that "it is satisfactory that the agreements of 1899 and 1914 on which it [the relationship with Kuwait] is based are brief and rather vague".

The 1899 agreement stipulated that the Ruler of Kuwait should not receive representatives from foreign countries without Britain's sanction and that the Ruler could not "alienate" his territory without Britain's consent.

Sir Richard recognised that the

1899 agreement no longer matched the spirit of Britain's relationship with Kuwait. However, he advised against Britain proposing changes to the agreement for fear of arousing the Ruler's suspicions.

In a confidential memo on May 25, entitled *Formal Relationship with Kuwait*, Sir Richard wrote: "If (and only, if) the Ruler were to raise the question, I think Sir G. (sic) Middleton (or Mr [John] Richmond) [political agent in Kuwait, now Sir John] should therefore be in a position to say immediately that he is sure HM Government would agree that the 1899 agreement no longer reflects the spirit of the British relationship with Kuwait and that they would be prepared to bring it up to date."

Cantankerous Khrushchev unsettled West

THE government was uncertain how to tackle the obdurate Soviet Union in 1960 and had particular difficulty in deciding how to handle Nikita Khrushchev, who was at his most cantankerous that year.

Two important events showed the low ebb the cold war had reached in 1960. On September 29, Khrushchev thumped his desk and heckled Harold Macmillan, the prime minister, during his speech to the United Nations. Earlier, during his own speech on September 23, Khrushchev had called for a restructuring of the UN and had demanded the removal of Dag Hammarskjöld as secretary general.

Macmillan's papers show how ambivalent he was about addressing the 15th session of the general assembly and how much he vacillated before deciding, on September 22, to go to New York.

On September 17 he had written a despondent letter to the Queen. "Now we have fallen from the summit into a deep crevasse. I have to try to judge whether I think that I might start a new and better movement."

"If it is barely a matter of a propaganda battle with Mr Khrushchev, I am not very inclined to embark upon it." At that stage he was in favour of Lord Home, who had replaced Selwyn Lloyd as foreign secretary, speaking.

On September 4 Macmillan hinted at how concerned he was at the points the Soviet leader was capable of scoring at the UN. "For instance, if Mr Khrushchev makes a great speech full of clever but false statements, a sort of mixture between Mr Gladstone and Lloyd-George, both at their worst, a very large number of people in all

countries will believe him unless he can be shown up. The question is what is the best way of showing him up?"

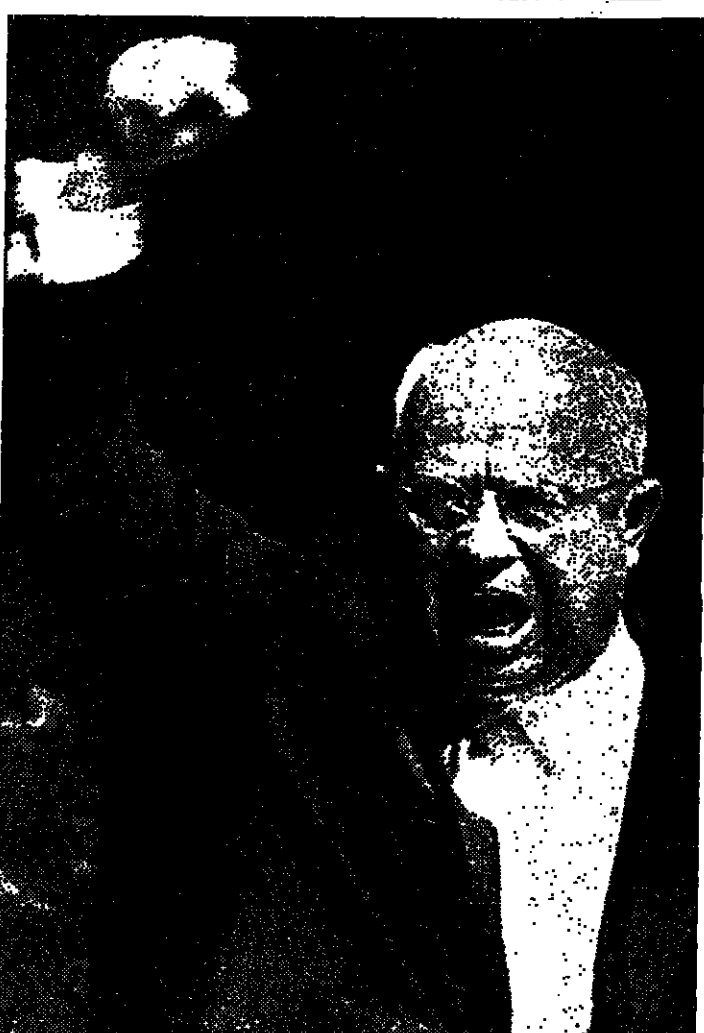
The prime minister went on to write that the impasse in the disarmament negotiations demanded a strong speech from the British at the UN.

"I believe a powerful speech would be a good thing. That is to say, to take the one point where he [Khrushchev] is weak and hammer at it all the time. Genuine inspection and genuine control — no other point matters in our disarmament plan which has so often been too complicated by detail. That is his [Khrushchev's] Achilles' heel."

The day after Macmillan decided to go to New York, Khrushchev left the British government reeling with his UN speech. In a confidential memo to the prime minister, Lord Home described the speech as "crude table-thumping, a repetitive attack on capitalism".

In a letter to the Queen on October 6 Macmillan showed his scorn for Khrushchev's suggestion that the UN secretary general should be replaced by a triumvirate that would represent the West, the Soviet bloc and the neutral countries. He wrote that "such a move would bring the United Nations to a halt".

Khrushchev's attack explained why Macmillan decided to alter the tone of his speech from that planned on September 4. In his report to cabinet he said that the US had wanted his speech to be an "aggressive reaction to the offensive speech" of Khrushchev. How-



Khrushchev during his outburst at the United Nations, left, and Powers, pilot of the U-2 spy plane shot down by the Russians



ever he said that he had wanted to avoid a slanging match, which would have alienated the neutral countries, and he did not want to fall into the trap of mediating between President Eisenhower and Khrushchev.

He said: "In the end I think that my speech combined sufficient firmness with a reasonable and constructive attitude to world problems."

An interesting footnote to emerge from the prime minister's correspondence at the time of the UN fiasco is a facetious telegram sent by Mr Khrushchev from his

ship, on his way to New York, to Mr Macmillan on September 11.

It read: "Being close to British shores on my way to New York to the session of the UN general assembly I take this opportunity, to extend to you and to the entire people of Great Britain best wishes of well being and happiness. I should also like to express the hope for co-operation with the government and the people of Great Britain in the solution of the vital problems facing the 15th session of the general assembly."

The second important event of

1960 to show the severity of the cold war was the failure of the Paris summit in May between the leaders of the "big four" powers of the US, the USSR, Britain and France. The meeting had been built up as the great chance to improve East-West relations but fizzled out in just three days on May 17 after bitter arguments over the American U-2 "spy" plane incident.

The aircraft had been shot down by the Soviets over their airspace. Moscow said it was spying while the Americans insisted that pilot, Francis Gary Powers, had

strayed off course. Khrushchev demanded, as his price for coming to Paris, a public apology from Eisenhower and a guarantee that there would be no more intrusions. Eisenhower rejected the demands.

The cabinet minutes of May 20 record the prime minister as saying that Khrushchev's tactics, with the impossible demands he sought from Eisenhower, had saved America's face. He said: "President Eisenhower would have been in a difficult position if Mr Khrushchev had asked only for a vague expression of regret."

Nuclear clouds on the Clyde

POLARIS

IN THE summer of 1960 the Macmillan government bowed to pressure from the US and agreed to a Polaris submarine base on the Clyde, despite advice that there would be widespread public anxiety over the establishment of a prime military target in a densely populated area.

The papers show that Macmillan and his ministers had already embarked upon a campaign of media manipulation, anticipating the outcry that would follow the arrival of Polaris.

The prime minister told his cabinet that it would be of advantage to the West as a whole and "to our partnership with the United States, if satisfactory arrangements can be made for the US Navy to have facilities for the operation of Polaris submarines in Scottish waters. It should be possible to justify the project to public opinion if it can be presented as a joint venture."

The cabinet papers show that if Polaris was a joint venture, then Britain was the junior partner. Advice from defence chiefs and others was discarded in the face of pressure from the Pentagon and the US President.

The cabinet papers show that ministers were well aware that the arrival of a new generation of US nuclear weapons might not be universally popular. Harold Watkinson, the defence minister, told the cabinet that Britain was working to a US-imposed deadline.

The American defence secretary had asked for formal agreement to be reached in time for the US



Navy to send a dry dock to Scotland by July 1960 and a Polaris submarine tender by the end of the year. Mr Watkinson said he had explained to his US counterpart that the deployment of Polaris raised important political and defence considerations in Britain.

"In order to justify this to public opinion in this country it will have to be presented as a joint project. This can be achieved if the US government were to give us an option to purchase or build our own Polaris submarines. To offset hostility we should avoid describing the facilities as an American base in Scotland. It might be found that facilities need not, at least initially, be represented as permanent."

General enthusiasm among members of the Macmillan cabinet for more liberal Sunday trading laws was tempered by the knowledge that opponents of change could "cause the government considerable political difficulty".

No desire to fan the wind of change

SHARPEVILLE

THE massacre of 56 blacks by South African police at Sharpeville in 1960 did nothing to dent the determination of the Macmillan government to maintain good relations with Pretoria at almost any cost. The papers show that Britain's view was that South Africa, with her strong and flourishing economy, has a valuable part to play in the Commonwealth.

The public perception was that Harold Macmillan, then prime minister, had infuriated the South Africans with his unequivocal speech to parliament in Cape Town, in which he said: "The wind of change is blowing through this continent and, whether we like it or not, this growth of national consciousness is a political fact."

In reality cabinet papers reveal that Macmillan had no desire to force the pace of change and thus the abandonment of apartheid. After a four-nation African tour early in February 1960 he told ministers that "it would be a tragedy if South Africa's links with the Commonwealth were weakened by reason of differences of opinion on the policy of race relations". Macmillan admitted that the main difficulties arose from the nationalist government's policy on the issue. "Though we cannot endorse that policy, we must remember it is their policy, not ours."

In March 1960 at the black township of Sharpeville in the Transvaal 56 people died and 162 were wounded when security forces opened fire on civil rights demonstrators. There was an international outcry, particularly in black and Asian Commonwealth states.

A response was expected from the Macmillan government. In the event the prime minister's hand was forced by a Labour motion on



Diplomatic dexterity and bland regret over Sharpeville killings

the Commons order paper "deploping the killing and shooting of demonstrators in South Africa".

Macmillan told his cabinet that the terms of the motion were carefully chosen and it was understood that the Speaker was unlikely to rule it out of order. The prime minister instructed the cabinet that the British government must be careful to observe the convention that one independent member of the Commonwealth should not seek to intervene in the internal affairs of another. "And it is on that account very important that we should avoid lending public support to the view that the recent disturbances in South Africa are the inevitable result of the racial policies of the Union government."

"On the other hand it must be recognised that public opinion has been deeply moved by the events and an appropriate expression of regret and sympathy for those who suffered will be expected."

The cabinet papers show that ministers discussed a form of words for the government motion which, while mollifying public opinion at home, would not upset Pretoria unduly. An attempt was also made to defer debate on the opposition motion "for a week, so events could be seen in a better perspective".

Macmillan told his cabinet that government supporters would find it difficult to vote against the Labour motion. They would find it easier to vote in favour of an amendment "which, while containing appropriate expressions of regret, reaffirmed the principle

that one independent member of the Commonwealth should not pass judgment on the internal policies of another."

The amendment suggested by Macmillan and agreed by his cabinet is a masterful example of diplomatic dexterity and bland regret over the killings: "That this House, while recognising that it has no responsibility or jurisdiction over the independent countries of the Commonwealth, at the same time wishes to record its deep sympathy with all the people of South Africa at the recent tragic events which have taken place."

Whether public opinion at home was satisfied is still open to question. Many Commonwealth states, and other nations, remained committed to punishing South Africa over Sharpeville.

The Macmillan cabinet later in the spring of 1960 was forced to consider its reaction to a United Nations resolution tabled by Ecuador, and supported by many black and Asian states, which was roundly critical of Pretoria.

Macmillan told his cabinet: "To abstain seems the best course of action, least likely to lead to an immediate crisis in Commonwealth affairs." To vote against the motion, he said, would have been to run the real risk of forcing a damaging confrontation with a number of nations which were about to attain independence and were regarded as valuable trading partners.

"It is possible, after an interval, other Commonwealth governments will realise that it is not in their best interests to interfere in the domestic jurisdiction of another."

for Roxburghshire, was asked to reveal the effects of the black-out. He wrote: "The black-out has undoubtedly led to a very considerable increase in the use of the streets as urinals."

In Angus early closing imposed on public houses and cinemas did not seem to have caused too much discontent. The government was informed: "There is little change in this respect — there never was much nightlife."

In Perth the chief constable David Brown, chief constable

Tactical retreat as plan is rejected

CHANNEL TUNNEL

THE papers show how anxious the Macmillan government was that the French would seek to blame Britain for putting the Channel tunnel project on ice indefinitely. They also show that ministers felt that promoters of the scheme were seeking "financial support from the government ... quite inappropriate to a private venture".

Early in 1960, Ernest Marples, the transport minister, told the cabinet that his officials had concluded that, despite the serious effects on the ports of Dover, Folkestone and Newhaven, the project would be acceptable on economic grounds; that it should be privately financed; and that if it proved a commercial proposition, there might be considerable political advantage in it.

Selwyn Lloyd, the foreign secretary, told ministers that the French had made clear that, while they would not back the project financially, they were in favour of it. British support would be consistent with "our general policy of co-operation with Europe", Mr Lloyd said.

By the summer, though, the cabinet's flirtation with the project was all but over. Mr Marples told

his colleagues that the scheme's promoters expected a great deal of financial support and had asked for privileges "quite inappropriate to a private venture".

The cabinet's economic policy committee concluded that the plan could not be accepted. Mr Marples warned ministers that "while the French might agree with our view about the financial difficulties, they might try to put the onus for rejecting the project on the United Kingdom."

"We should be careful not to disclose our view. We should simply inform the French that we would be prepared to discuss various aspects of the scheme when they were ready."

A report to the Cabinet from R A Butler, the home secretary, said there had "recently been a startling increase in the rate of immigration from the West Indies". In the first 10 months of 1960, 43,500 West Indians arrived in Britain compared with 16,400 in the whole of 1959 and 29,800 in the previous record year of 1956.

Mr Butler's report warned that "social tensions continued to exist and were a potential source of serious disturbance". It led to Cabinet discussions on a legal limit to the influx but ministers agreed no action should be taken to end Britain's traditional "open door" policy.

Dark secrets of civilian wrongdoings in 1940 finally exposed

By KERRY GILL

SOME of the most closely guarded secrets about civilian behaviour in the early months of the second world war have been released today. The government has decided that only now is it safe to publish high-level police reports that should have been kept secret until 2014.

Every two weeks chief constables had to compile reports for the wartime government on civilian conduct when Britain stood

almost alone against the forces of Nazism and fascism.

In Scotland the most senior police officers spent their time solemnly recording rather mundane outbreaks of civil disobedience. It has emerged, for example, that by June 1940 Aberdeen police were searching for the person who started a rumour that the chief constable had been arrested on suspicion of being a fascist sympathiser.

David Brown, chief constable

for Roxburghshire, was asked to reveal the effects of the black-out. He wrote: "The black-out has undoubtedly led to a very considerable increase in the use of the streets as urinals."

In Angus early closing imposed on public houses and cinemas did not seem to have caused too much discontent. The government was informed: "There is little change in this respect — there never was much nightlife."

In Perth the chief constable

worried over an increase in drunkenness apparently caused by the national emergency.

On the night of October 28, 1939, three drunken Scots staggered out of the gloom in Cathcart Street, Rutherglen, a Glasgow suburb, and were challenged by a sentry guarding an army billet.

"Two intoxicated men, namely John Queen and Francis Dunn, were commanded to halt. It would appear that they resented this," the chief constable for

Lanarkshire wrote in his report. Mr Queen and Mr Dunn were obviously more than a match for the soldier. Reaching between the lines they must have thumped the private before taking his rifle.

After support troops disgorged from the billet, Mr Francis was grabbed 200 yards down the street as the third drunk, Francis Connelly, "molested" the soldiers. Police were called and Mr Queen was caught. All three were charged and bound for trial before

a sheriff and jury. Only soldiers were wounded; one suffered a slight head injury and another a sore finger. The rifle was recovered.

Sir Percy Sillitoe, Glasgow's chief constable, was worried about the new role for his men. He said that if police were known to be making inquiries for reports on civilian morale and behaviour, people might accuse the government of establishing a secret police organisation.

Dublin govt concerned checkpoint

Polluters face



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Dublin government concerned over checkpoint death

By PETER VICTOR

THE Irish government expressed its concern last night over the shooting of two unarmed men by security forces in Northern Ireland and said the affair would be raised through the secretariat of the Anglo-Irish Conference.

It said a full report was being sought on the incident, in which one man died and another was seriously injured. Dublin said: "The information so far available gives cause for concern about the circumstances in which the men were shot, and we are anxious to have all aspects thoroughly investigated and the fullest possible information made available."

Lord Belstead, Northern Ireland law and order minister, said he regretted the death and injuries. He said the media had already given several conflicting reports of what had happened. All the circumstances were being investi-

gated fully and independently by senior RUC detectives and would "establish the facts in an impartial and objective manner". A full report would go to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The minister appealed for witnesses to come forward. When asked why the soldiers involved had not been suspended, he refused to comment. Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, yesterday called for an immediate public enquiry into the shooting last Sunday in which Fergal Caraher, aged 20, died and his brother Michael, aged 23, was critically injured when troops of the 45 Commando Royal Marines fired on their car in the South Armagh village of Cullyhanna.

Sinn Fein last night joined the family and friends of the two men in calling for the soldiers responsible to be suspended and for an independent enquiry to be held. They protested bitterly that the soldiers concerned had been allowed to return to duty.

The army said the case was now for the police to investigate and there was no reason why the soldiers should not be back on duty. However, Mr Mallon said the decision was a "disgrace".

The army said the white Rover in which the brothers were travelling failed to stop at a checkpoint and struck and injured two soldiers.

The Caraher family and witnesses maintain that the brothers were allowed through one checkpoint and then were fired on by soldiers at a roadblock 100 yards further on. The car was hit by bullets at least a dozen times. The men's father was quoted as saying: "They were shot by British terrorists."

The dead man, married with a 12-month-old son, had been a member of Sinn Fein for two years. His brother was critically ill yesterday and under intensive care in a Belfast hospital.

Mr Mallon said the decision to keep the soldiers on duty while an investigation was held showed "a cynical disregard for the legitimate concern which exists about the incident".

He added: "It is also an obvious pre-judgment of the findings of the enquiry and shows the disdainful attitude of the army. The circumstances surrounding the shooting are highly dubious and demand a full independent investigation."

"Information available indicates that this incident was what can only be described as a shoot-to-kill incident involving two unarmed men." The RUC said two soldiers were knocked down by the car and one was carried for some distance on the front of the vehicle. A statement said other soldiers opened fire but the car carried on. Two soldiers were medically exam-

ined and one was flown by helicopter to the military wing of the Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast.

Local witnesses, including a brother of the two casualties, yesterday disputed the security forces' claim that the men had driven through a checkpoint before any shots were fired.

They said at least one Royal Marine opened fire from a distance of only a few yards as the car turned slowly out of a public house forecourt, having passed through two nearby road blocks minutes earlier. The shooting occurred entirely without reason, they said.

Jim McAllister, a local Sinn Fein councillor, and Liam and Maeva Murphy, two local residents, all said that the Rover had earlier been stopped for about 15 minutes at the first checkpoint before being allowed to proceed.

It then passed through the second checkpoint and stood briefly in the car park of the Light and Easy public house while Mr Murphy, who was to accompany the brothers into Crossmaglen, walked back from a shop where he had left his car with his pregnant wife, Maeva.

Driving another car Francis Caraher, meanwhile, had been stopped at the second checkpoint close to the pub car park. As the Rover turned out onto



Francis Caraher, the dead man's brother

the road at a normal speed driving towards Mr Murphy a marine who had been standing beside the vehicle dropped to one knee and opened fire, Mr Caraher said.

The firing continued as the Rover drove away. Mr Murphy also said that he had a clear view of the shooting. His wife, who was standing outside the shop, also claimed to have seen the start of the shooting and to have run back inside in fear.

Mr McAllister said that several other witnesses were giving their accounts to Tom Pieman, the Caraher family's solicitor, and all would dispute the security forces' version. The firing occurred completely without reason. "We want the soldiers arrested, tried for murder and brought to justice as would happen in the case of civilians," Mr McAllister said.

Drug safety expert attacks TV programme

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TELEVISION documentary about an antidepressant drug may have increased the risks of suicide among some patients who take it, a drug safety expert said yesterday.

The Channel 4 programme *Despatches*, investigated claims that the drug Prozac could trigger suicides among people suffering depression. Bill Inman, director of the Drug Safety Research Unit, has complained to Michael Grade, head of Channel 4.

"The Christmas period is one of the times when average suicide rates and this lurid and unscientific programme may well have increased these risks without good reason," Professor Inman says in a letter to Mr Grade. About 5,000 general practitioners who prescribe Prozac in England are to be asked to tell the unit of any evidence that the drug has influenced suicidal urges among their patients.

The documentary said that patients should not stop taking the drug without seeking medical advice. The Royal College of Psychiatrists said "lurid anecdotes" in the programme would have disturbed many patients taking the drug. Channel 4 said that it stood by the programme which was carefully researched, "but we will study the comments of its expert critics."

□ Lazy children are idling their way towards an early grave, aided and abetted by their schools, the British Heart Foundation said yesterday. "A lot of children don't know what it is to feel fit," Desmond Julian, medical director of the foundation, said. Regular exercise could halve the risk of heart attacks and youngsters who did not acquire the habit at school were increasing the chances of premature death, he said.

Special Branch hunts for stolen Gulf information

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE hunt for classified material related to the Gulf stolen from a defence ministry car was continuing yesterday with senior Special Branch officers co-ordinating the enquiry into the theft.

No decision has yet been made over what action will be taken against Wing Commander David Farquhar, personal staff officer to Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Joint Commander of the British Gulf forces, who was in charge of the material. He has meanwhile been transferred to other duties.

Documents stolen from the car were later found abandoned on a builder's skip in St John's Wood, north London. The material still missing is, however, understood to include sensitive information together with money, a television and a dictaphone.

The material is believed to have been used to brief the prime minister and to

contain information relating to Britain's military deployment in the Gulf.

The defence ministry was yesterday maintaining its silence over what is being seen as an embarrassing lapse of security. Tom King, the defence secretary, avoided giving a direct answer when asked if he was satisfied that no damage had been caused to British and allied interests in the Gulf, replying: "This has obviously been our concern."

The primary question for the official enquiry is to resolve whether the theft was a simple criminal incident or a premeditated action by agents acting for Iraq. Even if it was a straight forward case of petty theft, there is a danger that the criminals may have realised the value of their material.

It was taken from an unmarked defence ministry car which was taking Commander Farquhar, from Whitehall back to RAF Strike Command

headquarters at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. The car had been left unguarded near a car showroom in Acton, west London.

● Sensitive government documents normally find their way into the wrong hands through leaks, and papers are rarely stolen. When they are, the effects can be acutely embarrassing.

The most violent theft in recent years happened in March 1989 when the IRA killed two senior RUC officers and seized secret documents. The papers were believed to contain clues to the identity of police informers in the border area and on cross-border co-operation between Northern Ireland's security forces and the Garda.

Earlier this year secret documents were found in a London restaurant which outlined the exact route the Queen was to take on October 23 in a parade to greet Italy's president.

Deaths in canal 'a tragic accident'

By PETER VICTOR

A CORONER'S officer last night ruled out the possibility of prosecutions after the drowning of three children from the same family last week in a Berkshire canal.

After the inquest into the deaths was adjourned yesterday, PC Colin Lilley, West Berkshire coroner's officer, said: "The police enquiry into the deaths of the three children is now virtually concluded and at this stage there is nothing to suggest it was anything more than a tragic accident."

The three children died last Thursday while walking on a canal towpath at Southcote Lock, Reading, with their mother, Claire and Carla Vazquez, aged six and eight, are believed to have stumbled into the water. Their mother, Suzanne, is thought to have lost her grip on seven-month-old Craig as she tried to save them. Mrs Vazquez has been interviewed by police. Yesterday, however, the coroner's officer indicated that foul play was not being investigated.

PC Lilley said: "Nothing has arisen from the evidence to suggest anything but an accident. When three people die as a result of circumstances such as these, whether it was a road accident or a drowning, it is necessary to enquire into the circumstances. We all feel extremely sorry for her [Mrs Vazquez] but she understands the necessity for there to be police enquiries."

Thames Valley police, which carried out the investigation, said that it had no knowledge of PC Lilley's comments and that it had no statement to make.

Rushdie in offer of friendship

Salman Rushdie continued in his attempt to return to a normal life after two years in hiding when he gave a live television interview yesterday.

Speaking on ITV's *News at One* he said: "After months in which I have been trying to hold out the hand of friendship and explain to people that I am not an enemy of Islam... what's happened is that somebody has taken that hand and grasped it and that somebody is the supreme religious authority of the Sunni Muslims of the world."

Mr Rushdie said that the worst part of the past two years was that his son had been without a father.

Burglary victim

A man aged 78 has died from a heart attack thought to have been caused by the shock of finding his home burgled. Fred Cook died minutes after he and his wife Lilian returned from spending Christmas with their daughter to find their home in Sheffield ransacked. Police said that the incident showed the devastating effect that a house burglary could have. The thieves stole £40 worth of food and drink.

Hawk success

British Aerospace yesterday announced a £210 million order from Finland for seven Hawk two-seater trainers for the factory at Brough, Humberside. Brough workers provide three quarters of the Hawk, which is assembled and powered by Rolls Royce at Warton, Lancashire, and the contract takes orders for it to about 750, making it the most successful jet trainer in the world.

Fire at reserve

A fire that destroyed the wooden observation centre and shop at the Lock Garten esplanade reserve, Highland, is being treated by police as suspicious. The pair of ospreys that has been nesting at the site is not due back until March from winter migration in Africa. Staff say that a new visitor unit could cost about £20,000.

Film challenge

Mary Whitehouse has written to the director of public prosecutions asking whether the showing by BSkyB on Saturday of the film *The Last Temptation of Christ* constitutes an offence under the new broadcasting act. It outlaws programmes likely to offend against decency. Mrs Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers & Listeners Association, said the film portrayed Christ as a fornicator.

Chess continues in ferocious vein

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE third round of the Foreign & Colonial Grandmaster tournament at Hastings continued yesterday in the same ferocious vein that characterised the first two rounds.

Just one game, between Helgi Olafsson, the Icelandic grandmaster, and Jon Speelman, of Britain, petered out to an early draw. The remaining three games ended in wins.

Bent Larsen, the Danish veteran and three times world champion, semi-finalist, moves into the sole lead by out-generalling Murray Chandler, the Olympic silver medalist grandmaster.

When he resigned, Chandler was faced with not just the loss of a piece but with rampant pawns poised on the verge of

becoming queens. Tony Kosten suffered an early accident against Gyuha Sax, the Hungarian grandmaster, when Kosten's pet opening, the rarely played Philidor Counter Gambit, was refuted by a surprise ninth move from his opponent.

Daniel King, the London grandmaster, missed a likely win during the prosecution of a daring kingside attack against Evgeni Bareev, the Soviet grandmaster. During a mutual time scramble where each player had no more than a couple of minutes to complete the last 20 moves, King went astray and found himself facing a lost endgame.

Scores after three rounds are: Larsen, 2½; Speelman, Olafsson and Sax, 2; Bareev,

1½; Chandler, 1; Kosten and King, ½. Meanwhile, Soviet grandmasters dominate the new year ranking list of the World Chess Federation.

In the leading position is Gary Kasparov, the world champion, on 2800, then there is a gulf with his challenger Anatoly Karpov on 2725. Boris Gelfand is 2700, Vassily Ivanchuk 2695, and in shared 5th place on 2650 is Evgeni Bareev, who thus becomes the highest seed to play at Hastings.

Of the English grandmasters, Nigel Short is 2635, followed by Speelman on 2610, and Michael Adams and John Nunn both on 2600.

□ The 24th and final game of the World Chess championship in Lyons began last

night with Kasparov playing white and Karpov taking the black pieces.

The game is very much a formality since Kasparov has already won the world chess championship by virtue of scoring 12 points. Kasparov opened cautiously, avoiding the move of his king's pawn, which he had played in every other game with white, and after ten moves, a quiet, strategic position had developed on the board.

Here are the moves so far:

| White | Black | White | Black |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 1 Nf3 | Nf6 | 8 Qxd3 | b6 |
| 2 e4 | e5 | 9 Bb2 | g6 |
| 3 Nc3 | Bb4 | 4 Bb2 | Bb7 |
| 4 Qd2 | O-O | 5 g3 | c5 |
| 5a3 | Bxc3 | 10 Bg2 | |

Polluters face tougher penalties from today

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT



Trippier: "New penalties will certainly be used"

POLLUTERS of rivers and lakes and droppers of litter face tough new penalties in magistrates' courts from today.

The Environmental Protection Act, 1990, increases the maximum fine for pollution offences under the Water Act, 1989, from £2,000 to £20,000, although an unlimited fine for water pollution can still be imposed in the crown court. That was the case with Shell UK, fined £1 million last year for an oil spill in the Mersey.

The act increases the maximum fine for littering from £400 to £1,000 and allows local councils to hand out £10 fixed-penalty tickets to people who drop litter, as part of a comprehensive

litter-control regime to be brought in from April. It gives local councils a duty of care and the ability to designate litter control zones.

David Trippier, minister for the environment and the countryside, said yesterday: "People and firms who have been polluting or dropping litter should make a new year's resolution to stop, because I warn them these penalties are certainly going to be used. It is the only way to make some people sit up and take notice."

The new water-pollution fines are likely to be much in evidence in the coming year as the National Rivers Authority (NRA) begins a clampdown on institutional and individual polluters. All ten of the privatised water companies in England and Wales are

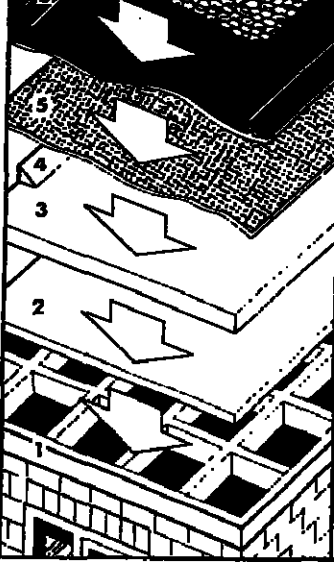
likely to face charges over the poor performance of sewage treatment works; evidence is being gathered for possible prosecution at more than 170 sites. Farmers are also likely to find themselves in the NRA firing line over farm-waste pollution.

A new high focus on litter begins with the increased fines, according to the Tidy Britain Group, which last month disclosed that litter prosecutions had risen to 2,409 in 1989 from 1,762 the year before.

From today the new act also controls abandoned shopping and luggage trolleys, of which an estimated 140,000 disappear every year at a cost of £8 million. They can be seized from the street and countryside by local authorities, who can charge for their return.

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Companies give employment scheme the cold shoulder

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are reluctant to give on-the-job training to participants in the employment training scheme, an unpublished study by the government shows.

The results of the internal employment department study of how employment training (ET) is working were examined by the Treasury in the autumn round of public spending negotiations, and were among the reasons for cutting the scheme's budget.

Of the government's total training budget of £2.5 billion in 1990-1, spending on ET is about £1.2 billion but that is likely to be cut by more than £350 million by the 1991-2 financial year.

Partly because of the report, Treasury officials believe that ET, which is aimed at the long-term

unemployed, is less successful in placing people in jobs than many of the measures operated at lower cost by the department's employment service.

Labour party leaders have been pressing the government to disclose in full the findings of the report into ET's first 18 months. The study, *ET Evaluation: Summary of Findings from the First 18 Months*, shows that less than 30 per cent of ET trainees at the time of the survey were in training placements with employers. Of those who were, most were with small private-sector companies employing fewer than 25 workers.

Labour believes that the figures show that trainees on ET, like those on schemes before it such as the youth training scheme (YTS), are used by small companies as cheap labour.

The survey also discloses that employers saw the young people on YTS as most deserving of help while the long-term unemployed on ET were the least deserving. Because many YTS trainees are young and enthusiastic, many managers of government training programmes favoured them, seeing them as a "clean slate" compared to ET trainees, and consequently easier to match with employers. Similarly, the report says that training managers believed employers thought that young people on YTS were "more malleable" and "less likely to complain than adult trainees."

The report notes that some employers were attracted by the ET scheme simply because it required from them only a limited commitment to a period of training. Labour says this means that some employers simply discard ET trainees after a period for the next batch, so effectively avoiding any real training obligations.

Employment or full-time training was achieved by half of those completing the scheme and by 44 per cent of those leaving it early. Only 40 per cent of those leaving said ET had helped them to find work, although two-thirds felt it had improved their confidence and their skills, and more than three-quarters felt it had helped them to get on with other people.

Staff testing standards to be raised

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A QUALITY assurance scheme for occupational testing, which is widely used in Britain for screening staff, is being launched today by the British Psychological Society.

Nearly three quarters of companies in Britain use occupational tests for recruiting and assessing staff. Critics say that some of the tests are poor predictors of performance and that many of those using them do not understand the tests' limitations.

The scheme aims to protect the public by providing a statement of competence in occupational testing, available from today, and a higher-level certificate of competence, from July 1. The certificate will be issued only to applicants who can demonstrate to a chartered psychologist that they are competent. The statement will be available immediately to those who have completed an approved training course or who are registered with one of the main test publishers.



On the seventh day of Christmas... many shoppers stayed at home and stores admitted that they did not expect to sell as much, in volume terms, as last year. By mid-morning the perfumery department of this Oxford Street store was still waiting for the rush. In general, shopkeepers reported a steady flow of customers and some stores in Manchester, Sheffield, Cardiff and Bristol said they expected yesterday's takings to be a record in money terms. Liberty, in Regent Street, London, expects crowds today when it halves some sale prices

Easing the way to small claims court

WHEN Christine Wheeler was involved in a crash that caused £2,000 damage to her vehicle and faced her with the cost of a hired car, she decided to go the small claims court to recoup her outstanding losses.

The AA, to which she belongs, had failed to win back hire-car costs from the driver of the other vehicle. That, together with the first £50 she had to pay before claiming on her insurance, set her back about £300. But, like many before her, Miss Wheeler found that pursuing a small claim is not as easy or straightforward as it is intended to be.

"I regard myself as quite an articulate person," she said. "But when I arrived for the first hearing I was petrified. I had never even set foot inside a courtroom before."

The small claims court was set up 17 years ago as a system of simple, cheap "do it yourself" justice where people do not need a lawyer — a kind of "people's court". In some respects it has been a success. Each year, more people resort to the small claims court to pursue an action: last

The small claims court, set up as a system of cheap "do it yourself" justice so that claims can be pursued without lawyers, is taking on a bigger role, reports Frances Gibb

year the total was nearly 50,000, about 6,000 more than in 1984. Yet, according to the users of the system, it falls short of being a simple and easy system of justice that is accessible to the ordinary person.

There are complaints that the booklet on pursuing a small claim is complex; that there is a lack of information from the court on what steps to take; of delays in pursuing the claim and of varying attitudes among the registrars who adjudicate the disputes, with some being formal and unhelpful, others interventionist and friendly.

Miss Wheeler's case starkly highlights some of the difficulties.

Although successful in pursuing her claim, she relied largely on the help of the solicitor at the company where she works as a personal assistant. "He really told me everything I needed to do. He told me to get my evidence together. He made me get photographs of the scene of the accident, and the damage, and put the whole case together for me."

When it came going to court, Miss Wheeler had a preliminary hearing to fix the date. "Never having been in a court in my life, I was very glad of that dress rehearsal." However, when it came to the day of the actual hearing, or arbitration, she took the solicitor along and he cross-examined the defendants and witnesses for her. "I suppose I could have done it on my own but it would have been very daunting. It felt much more secure."

She says that because the emphasis is on informality, it is easy for people to be lulled into forgetting that the registrar is making a decision on the evidence before him. "It's not just a cosy chat round the table."

Another key factor is the need for

good witnesses. Miss Wheeler subpoenaed hers after learning "quite by chance" from a court official that she could do so.

Her case, and her need for reliance on professional help, demonstrates some of the failings of the court. In particular, she says that the information on how to pursue a claim should be sent out automatically when someone first approaches the court. She only obtained her booklet half-way through the case.

Miss Wheeler says that it should be made clear to people that they must put down the whole of their claim, including all incidental expenses if they are known, from the start. "I didn't know you could claim interest so I lost that."

She says that the court could provide plaintiffs or defendants with a checklist of what they need to know. "The court is entirely reactive; it only does what you ask it to do, although of course it cannot — and should not — help you put your case together."

Tomorrow: How the reformed system will work

Beer limit dispute brings new delay

Disagreement on how much beer Irishmen should be able to carry home has postponed the introduction of customs regulations on the Irish border (Robin Young writes).

Four years ago, to discourage bulk buying in Northern Ireland where prices are lower, the Irish government ruled that only those who had been away more than 48 hours could bring goods home and imposed a 12-litre limit per person on beer imports.

The British government had this overturned by the European Court for being restrictive. Dublin then proposed to cut the time limit to 24 hours and said the restriction would be raised to 25l from today.

Meningitis death

A boy aged 3 from Scholar Green, Cheshire, has died from meningitis. He is the third child in a fortnight to die from the disease within a 20-mile radius but Crewe health authority said the case was not connected with the others in Crewe and Northwich.

Inmates accused

Three prisoners were remanded in custody yesterday accused of unlawfully killing Anthony Whitaker, aged 52, a remand prisoner from south London, in Canterbury prison.

Wife returns

Jennifer Howe, aged 45, an army sergeant's wife missing from home for three days, returned safely to her married quarters at the army base on Thorney Island, West Sussex, yesterday. Police said she had left for domestic reasons.

Son charged

Brian Thirlwell, aged 26, was remanded in custody by Gateshead magistrates yesterday charged with battering to death his father George, aged 64, and mother Kitty, aged 59, with whom he lived.

College fire

Staff escaped after fire extensively damaged the kitchens of Radley College, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire, yesterday. The school will reopen as planned on January 6.

Costume piece

A replica of the dress worn by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at her wedding in 1923 is estimated to make £1,200-£1,800 in costume and textiles sale at Sotheby's London on January 23.

THE EC PRESIDENCY

Luxembourg, the mouse that must roar

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

THE smallest member of the European Community, Luxembourg today takes over the EC presidency from Italy, and with it the responsibility for piloting the Twelve through the two inter-governmental conferences on political and monetary union, as well as the approaching confrontation in the Gulf.

The task will strain the resources of the Grand Duchy to the limit. With a population of only 380,000, a handful of diplomats around the world and a small civil service, Luxembourg will have to devote itself to leading a Community almost a thousand times its own size at a time of unparalleled strain.

"The international environment... has rarely been so full of problems and uncertainty," Jacques Poos, the foreign minister, said recently.

Luxembourg's priority for the next six months will be to ensure rapid progress towards agreement on changes in the Treaty of Rome to bring about closer political co-operation and economic and monetary union. The country will preside over the weekly negotiating sessions of experts and the monthly meetings of the EC's foreign and finance ministers.

Community leaders set themselves a rapid timetable in Rome in December, aimed at concluding negotiations in just over six months. But fundamental differences which have only begun to surface will slow progress. Britain's strong opposition to the final

aim of a single European currency may lead to renewed confrontation with its partners during the talks on monetary union. The Franco-German alliance may begin to unravel over differing views on political union. The Luxembourgers will need all the tact, patience and firmness of purpose to prevent both conferences becoming bogged down in disagreement and recriminations.

Luckily, the country can point to precedents to reassure doubters that it is up to the task. Luxembourg took over negotiations on the Single European Act at a critical stage from Italy in 1985,

and ensured its passage despite earlier British resistance. Two decades earlier, the "Luxembourg compromise" was evolved, giving member states room for manoeuvre over issues of vital national importance and ending a six-month French boycott of the Community.

Luxembourg's small size makes it a natural consensus-seeker, although not a natural leader. Gaston Thorn, a former prime minister who was Jacques Delors's predecessor as president of the European Commission, was one of the least successful leaders of the Community.

However, the Grand Duchy,



Taking the strain: Poos must help steer the Community through enormous 'problems and uncertainty'

one of the original Six, has a strong commitment to the integration of Europe. The population speaks French and German as well as the Letzeburgesch dialect. Its economy and identity are closely linked to the Community: it houses the European Court of Justice, the European Investment Bank, the Court of Auditors, the secretariat of the European Parliament, most of the EC publications offices and for three months each year it is the site of Council meetings by EC ministers.

However, this involvement makes it difficult for Luxembourg to carry out two other tasks on the agenda: completing the internal market and deciding the seat of the European Parliament and several new EC agencies.

Luxembourg has a keen interest in keeping the EC agencies that contribute so much to its economy and prestige. It will be hard therefore to face down the French, threatening to veto any new package of seats until Strasbourg is confirmed as the venue for the European Parliament. Luxembourg will have to mediate between France and Belgium, which wants the Parliament in Brussels, while preserving its own claim, and trying also to land the big catch for itself: the headquarters of the proposed Eurofed.

The internal market has now reached a stage which also threatens Luxembourg's interests: banking secrecy and a possible harmonisation of value added tax and

the phasing out of excise duty differences all threaten the prosperity of a country that has exploited EC loopholes to become rich. Similarly, proposals on the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference on political union, such as full voting rights for immigrants, a stronger role for the European Parliament and more majority voting are seen as a threat to a country that has a foreign population of 28 per cent.

The government of Jacques Santer, a Christian Democrat, must also pull the Community back to negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Luxembourg will need to persuade France and Germany to make much bigger concessions on agriculture.

It will also preside over the final negotiations to integrate the seven members of the European Free Trade Association with the EC in the proposed European Economic Area, a new 19-nation common market.

All plans and timetables would be thrown into disarray by war in the Gulf. "If there were to be a war, the top priority for our presidency would be obvious," Mr Poos said.

"Even if the war were short... its consequences would be considerable. Current economic difficulties would get much worse and the Community would have to face up to that."

No country has had to lead the EC into a war before. It would be a hard task for little Luxembourg.

French pessimism grows over rule by 'Sun King'

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS FRANÇOIS Mitterrand approaches the end of his tenth year in the Elysée Palace, a pervasive sense of dissatisfaction with his presidency is spreading among the French. The most superficial reflection of this malaise may be found in the opinion polls, where his popularity is at its lowest ebb since 1986, but the true measure of what most troubles France after a decade of Mitterrandism is less easily defined.

There is certainly widespread pessimism about the effect that almost five more years of President Mitterrand could have upon the country as a whole. Chattering in bread shops and corner bars all over France, ordinary people of every political persuasion or

none grumble about his "Sun King" complex and dismaying inability to acknowledge their everyday worries and fears.

At a time when the traditional pillars of society appear to many to be under threat, with judges and civil servants protesting in the streets, high schools in turmoil and the urban slums simmering, an aloof and remote figure in the Elysée could hardly be more damaging for the presidency. To make matters worse, a recently published government report concluded that the cherished "historic role" of France in world affairs, so crucial to Gallic self-esteem, is not what it used to be after the extraordinary events of the past two years.

In fairness, such misgivings normally overlap with a profound contempt for the entire

classe politique, poll after poll records the public's rooted conviction that most of their elected representatives are corrupt and self-serving (one survey found them little more respected than prostitutes). As one grubby political scandal follows another, the scathing judgement of the country inevitably rubs off on the Elysée Palace.

All this helps explain why the first murmurs about the need for a drastic revision of the Fifth Republic are now being heard in political circles: briefly stated, Mitterrand's powers are held to be too great and his seven-year term of office too long. What France in the 1990s needs, goes the argument, is far greater parliamentary control over the presidency, ideally wielded by a prime minister who can bite back

when necessary. Mitterrand may once have denounced the powers bestowed by the present Gaullist constitution as amounting to "a permanent coup d'état", but that was before he arrived at the Elysée. The best hope he holds out today is to consider changing the presidency to a five-year term, always provided that parliament and government agree.

It goes without saying that Mitterrand's iron grip on government owes much to the chronic inability of France's mainstream conservatives to get their act together. On the evidence of their performance in opposition, neither Jacques Chirac nor Valéry Giscard d'Estaing can be rated as serious challengers: not that this has stopped them from gobbling up younger contenders on the

right. For all the Socialists' periodic feuds, the sinuous political skills of Mitterrand have been enough to preserve his authority within the party.

According to insiders, he has no intention of allowing his prime minister, Michel Rocard, to slip into pole position as a potential successor: some do not expect the increasingly hard-pressed M Rocard to survive another summer.

On the other hand, for his powers, Mitterrand still cannot foist his own favourite, the little loved president of the National Assembly, Laurent Fabius, on to the party faithful. As right-winger Michel Noir observed acridly the other day, it looks as if France will be "switched to the answering service for another five years".

Tusa ready to turn dream of 24-hour TV news into reality

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Ted Turner, the tenacious American entrepreneur, risked his entire \$100 million (£52 million) fortune on the launch of the world's first 24-hour television news service, just about everyone — from media pundits and the three US networks to most bankers and politicians — was convinced he was crazy even to contemplate it.

Ten years later Cable News Network (CNN) is watched by more than 50 million people around the world. And the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which last August propelled CNN to centre stage as public and policymakers alike turned in for the latest in the war of words between President Bush and President Saddam Hussein, has concentrated the minds of those at the BBC whose dreams of a global television network have been frustrated by the Foreign Office's continuing refusal to fund an expansion by the World Service from radio into television.

Now, with private sector loan finance and £2 million revenue raised by BBC Enterprises from programme sales abroad, the World Service's managing director, John Tusa, is ready to turn his dream into reality.

The planned launch of World Service Television News this spring looks modest compared with CNN. On an initial budget of £6 million, the BBC is to start with half-hour daily world news bulletins, working slowly but surely towards its 24-hour-a-day goal.

Mr Tusa said: "It's impossible to predict how fast we can expand. It took 35 years for the World Service to create a 24-hour English network, but I don't think it will take us that long this time. What I don't understand is why people outside the BBC have not seen its potential as clearly as me. The UK could influence the whole world information scene by committing itself to a TV news channel. It's such a huge prize."

The World Service, which boasts the biggest audience in the world, with 120 million people listening tuning in daily to its trusted bulletins and analyses of world affairs in both English and 36 other languages, is well-placed to give both CNN and the 24-hour Sky News a run for their money, although Mr Tusa is adamant that the BBC will not compete on their terms.

Reaching an initial seven million people as part of a repackaged BBC TV Europe, which now

broadcasts 18 hours a day of BBC1 and BBC2 output via satellite and cable throughout the European continent, World Service Television News (WSTN) will direct itself to a well-educated and influential 'AB' audience in 22 countries.

While CNN, on slow news days, can bore UK and European viewers with the kind of "cat stuck up a tree in Martinsville, Indiana" stories, WSTN will concentrate on news from all the countries it reaches. "The World Service has been criticised for being so world-centred that it misses some domestic UK stories. That's true, but if it is to be credible, and effective to a global audience, it must bend over backwards to avoid giving Britain any more attention than the other countries it services," Mr Tusa said.

He is determined that the BBC service will not become a platform for political propaganda in the way many pundits believe the American network has allowed itself to be used during the Gulf confrontation. The same rigorous tests for accuracy and impartiality will be applied as they are to World Service radio broadcasts, focusing on analysis, and the placing of events in context. But it is doubtful that a 24-hour BBC global television news network would turn down an impromptu interview with President Saddam, a quick response from President Bush, another from President Saddam and so on, while inevitably engaged in a highly-competitive ratings battle with CNN itself, Sky and, eventually, ITN.



Tusa: impossible to predict pace of expansion

Bush dilemma over asking Congress to approve war

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, WASHINGTON

AFTER a two-month break a new Congress convenes this week, putting President Bush right on the spot as the United Nations' January 15 deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait draws near. Though he has secured global authorisation for going to war in the Gulf, he has yet to secure the backing of the Democrat-controlled Congress, and there is no guarantee he can.

House and Senate leaders are adamant that Mr Bush must, under the constitution, obtain congressional approval before he commits US troops to war. Richard Gephardt, the Democratic House leader, warned at the weekend that if he failed to do so Congress would "reach for the only tool left to it, which is to cut off funding for the war".

The White House knows that Mr Gephardt is almost certainly a hollow threat, that Congress would not dare pull the rug from beneath its forces once battle had been joined. But while it denies that the President has a constitutional obligation to seek congressional approval, it also knows that to go to war without having done so would be extremely risky.

If the war went awry, if it did not prove the quick, decisive and relatively bloodless affair Mr Bush has predicted, he would have no political cover. His presidency would be undermined as surely as that of the last president who sought to wage a protracted, bloody war with his country divided, Lyndon Johnson in Vietnam.

Mr Bush's dilemma is that to seek congressional approval is as risky as not seeking it. A divisive debate would hear President Saddam Hussein, whose refusal to

believe that the US will take military action is said to be based in large part on the lack of consensus in America, and there is a strong possibility that Congress would either refuse authorisation or hamstring the administration with, for example, a requirement that every non-military means of securing an Iraqi withdrawal be tried and exhausted before resorting to force.

The almost total support from Congress that Mr Bush enjoyed early on, evaporated on November 8 when he ordered a near-doubling of US troops in the region and turned them from a defensive to offensive force. Democrats rallied behind the argument that sanctions should be given time to work. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate armed services committee, Mr Gephardt and George Mitchell, the Senate leader, have all adopted that argument, and 110 rank-and-file House Democrats reiterated it in a letter to Mr Bush last week.

In a television interview even Robert Dole, the Senate's Republican minority leader, cautioned that the American people "are not yet committed to war" and Mr Bush should try again to arrange direct talks with Baghdad, while Senator Mitchell has warned that Congress will not approve the sort of UN-style resolution, giving the administration the "blank cheque" authorisation which it wants.

The White House has twice before considered sending resolutions to Congress, but was both times deterred by advice that the ensuing debate would send entirely the wrong signal to Iraq. Mr Bush meets congressional leaders on Thursday.

At present Mr Bush's advisers are divided. Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, is said to be wary that Congress might inhibit the administration's freedom of manoeuvre. John Sununu, the White House chief of staff, is apparently "unsure", and James Baker, the Secretary of State, "a little more confident" that Congress would co-operate.

If Mr Bush is in a dilemma, so are most congressmen, and beyond agreeing that they should do something so that their institution is not sidelined, their leaders cannot decide on initiating a debate themselves. "If we didn't say anything, if we didn't raise a question, if we had no debate so as to help the president with this threat, and then he had to carry out the threat and the US was at war, every journalist in the country and many Americans would say 'Where were you?', conceded Senator Mitchell.

Like all politicians, the congressmen want to hedge their bets so that they can say they had supported military action if it turns out well and that they had urged restraint if it goes badly.

Leading article, page 9



Destination Gulf: a helicopter hovering above the aircraft carrier USS Ranger at Subic Bay naval base yesterday. The ship, together with 12 other warships of an American amphibious task force, is spending the new year at the Philippine base before sailing for the Gulf

Tehran attacks American role of 'gendarme' in the Gulf

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAN, which has undertaken to stay out of any hostilities in the Gulf, yesterday launched a blistering attack on Washington and threatened to "break the legs" of Americans and their allies if they tried to establish a permanent presence in the region.

In defiant mood, Iraq said it was ready for war, ordered all men aged 17 to report for military duty and claimed it would inflict "terrible and total" defeat on President Bush.

Jordan's King Hussein, suffering war jitters as Iraq and Israel exchange threats over his head,

announced he would travel to London and other European capitals this week for talks on the confrontation.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, accusing the United States of "acts of hooliganism, banditry and piracy", told a meeting of Revolutionary Guard commanders that "the Americans must know that the Islamic countries and world nations are disgusted with and deplore their presence in the Persian Gulf".

In sharp contrast to the ayatollah's warning, Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister,

said Tehran would remain neutral if war broke out. "We do not want to enter this predicament, since we do not consider either side and its conduct to be righteous," he told students at Tehran University.

Ayatollah Khamenei's outburst emphasised Iranian fears that a long-term American presence, or a pro-Western government replacing President Saddam Hussein, could undermine Iran's ambition to be the region's dominant force.

The ayatollah warned the rulers of the Gulf Arab states which had first sought United States protection not to give the Americans a permanent role in the region. If they did so they would be overthrown by their subjects. "All Americans and their allies must know that the nations of the region will break the legs of each single aggressor. They will not allow the US to come here and take up the role of gendarme under the pretext of maintaining security or a specific region," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Iran has so far benefited from the confrontation in the Gulf, with windfall oil revenues and a dramatic peace settlement with Iraq. Also, by enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq, President Rafsanjani has eased the way to improved relations with the West.

● Breakthrough expected: The Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has been acting as an unofficial mediator on behalf of Baghdad, said yesterday that it expected a breakthrough in efforts to avert war in the Gulf before the UN deadline. A spokesman added that the PLO had recently received Saudi assurances that King Fahd wanted a political solution to the confrontation.

Arab killed 'by her own bomb'

By RICHARD OWEN

A PALESTINIAN woman died yesterday in a women's lavatory in the Jewish market in Jerusalem when a bomb she was carrying detonated. "It seems she was preparing a bomb to kill Jews, and it went off," an Israeli policeman said.

Nearby, as stallholders looked on behind mounds of fruit and vegetables, right-wing Jewish militants from the Kach organisation danced, sang and shouted: "Death to Arabs."

The woman, aged 24, was reportedly pregnant and lived at a Palestinian refugee camp near Bethlehem on the West Bank. Yaakov Turner, the police commissioner, said the abortive bomb attack was related to today's anniversary of the emergence of Fatah, the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation group as a fighting force in 1965.

Meir Cohen, a shopkeeper who entered the toilets after the blast, said the woman had still been alive when he found her. "I picked up her head," he said. "She made a movement as if she wanted to speak. But suddenly I saw she had an Arab face and had something in her hand. I went out and fetched the border police and told them: 'Don't go in, it's another Arab'."

In the 1960s and 1970s, the PLO had well-trained fighting units, one Israeli defence expert said. "Now we get these amateurish attempts." PLO policy in the past two years has been that while armed attacks on Israeli's borders and against military targets are justified, the Palestinian uprising should be confined to mass protest and the use of stones.

There has been a series of stabbings and bombings against Israeli Jews since the Temple Mount riots in October in which 18 Arabs died, but most of the attacks appear to have been individual acts. Fifty Arabs who were in the vicinity of the Jewish market at the time of yesterday's explosion were detained, and arrests were made at the Bethlehem refugee camp.

Extensive curfews were also imposed throughout the Gaza Strip to prevent "Fatah Day" disturbances, following riots in Gaza at the weekend which left five Arabs dead.

In an attempt to demonstrate its pre-eminence in the occupied territories - despite the growing influence of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organisation - Fatah has orchestrated demonstrations in the past few days, leading the Israeli army to draft in reinforcements.

Curfews were yesterday extended to West Bank towns, and Palestinian schools were closed for two weeks.

Sri Lanka wary over rebel ceasefire

Colombo - THE Sri Lankan government has reacted cautiously to a Tamil Tiger pledge to cease fighting from midnight last night, (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The government says it needs at least three days to assess the declaration by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam that they would "effect a cessation of hostilities... unilaterally".

The Tigers said they had decided to cease fighting as a gesture of goodwill and to promote peace. But they added that they would defend themselves if the Government continued to fight.

They said the decision placed responsibility for maintaining peace or continuing war with the Sri Lankan government. The Tigers also said they would be prepared to enter peace talks if the ceasefire was observed by both sides.

Observers believe the three-day period mentioned by the government is because President Premadasa is due to address the nation at a rally in Kandy tomorrow, when he completes two years in office.

But the military is not in favour of a ceasefire, according to security sources. It believes the Tigers have been under pressure and want a respite to regroup.

The ceasefire move also comes as the Tamil Nadu government in southern India has begun a crackdown on the guerrillas, amid criticism from Delhi that the Tamil militants are operating freely in the state.

Anti-junta protest

Athens - Hundreds of those arrested, tortured or exiled during the seven-year Greek military dictatorship demonstrated in Athens and Thessaloniki against a government plan, since cancelled, to pardon the last-imprisoned junta leaders. The Athens rally, led by Melina Mercouri, the actress and politician, was staged outside Korydallos prison where eight of the 13 coup leaders and their close associates have been held for the past 16 years.

Scholar dismissed

Jerusalem - Israel's antiquities authority has dismissed on health grounds John Strugnell, the Harvard university scholar who headed a project to decipher the Dead Sea scrolls. Professor Strugnell told the Israeli daily *Haaretz* last month: "What bothers me about Judaism is the very existence of Jews." *The Jerusalem Report* labelled him "the Jew-hater who controls the scrolls." He told the magazine: "I am an anti-Zionist." (Reuters)

Winter strikes

Jammu - At least 30 people have died over the past three days as snow, rain and cold swept across north India. Officials said eight people died when their house collapsed in Jammu and Kashmir, adding to the Himalayan state's grim weekend toll in heavy snowfalls and landslides. The officials said more than 2,000 vehicles were trapped by the snow and landslides on the single road linking the Kashmir valley to the rest of India. (Reuters)

Rickshaw dispute

Jakarta - Six bicycle-rickshaw operators are suing the city government over a ban on rickshaws, which they say contravenes their right to make a living. The six owner-drivers claim that the city's bid to clear the streets of rickshaws has cost them \$120,000 in lost earnings. A year ago, security forces began seizing the vehicles late at night and dumping them in Jakarta Bay, where it was hoped they would form artificial reefs. (Reuters)

Disaster alert

Melbourne - Queensland's central coast has been declared a disaster area as rain and flooding in the wake of Cyclone Joy cut off towns and rural outstations. A week of unrelenting storms has left an area of the size of England engulfed from Rockhampton in the south to the northern resort of Townsville 400 miles to the north.

Rebels say Barre about to flee

By ANDREW LYCETT

A LEADING rebel group yesterday claimed that Somalia's beleaguered President Siad Barre was on the point of fleeing his country, following fierce fighting in the capital, Mogadishu, over the weekend.

President Barre's flight into exile was expected within 24 hours, a spokesman for the United Somali Congress (USC), said in Rome yesterday. "We now control 90 per cent of Mogadishu," he added.

But in a radio speech yesterday monitored by the Italian embassy in Mogadishu, the president said that many people had been killed in Mogadishu when army units were called out to repel an attack on the capital. He blamed the attack on "bandits" and said he had asked the army to return to barracks and hand over to the police. He apparently made no reference to who had the upper hand in the fighting.

The USC is one of the three main rebel groups which have been fighting to overthrow President Barre, who took power in a military coup in 1969. The others are the Somali National Movement and the Somali Patriotic Movement.

Like the president's regime, all three rebel movements are largely tribal organisations. After sporadic fighting, particularly in the north, throughout the 1980s, pressure on President Barre's regime intensified last summer when all three rebel groups agreed on military and political co-operation. Most of the subsequent clashes have taken place in the central region, around the capital.

The deteriorating situation forced President Barre to sack his hardline son, Brigadier Maslah Said Barre, as army commander in November and replace him with his son-in-law, Brigadier-General Said Hirsi Morgan.

But this conciliatory move, which reflected divisions within the president's supporters, failed to stop lawlessness in the capital. Mogadishu took on the appearance of a Wild West town, with shootings and kidnappings. Between 300 and 400 people are reported to have been killed there since the end of November.

In the past month President Barre pulled out the steps to reach some form of compromise. He courted American public opinion, which had been critical of his repressive regime, by supporting the anti-Iraq stand in the Gulf. He pushed for talks with the rebels. But when he offered to liberalise his one-party rule, only one small group took up his offer to constitute itself as a democratic party.

The latest fighting started on Boxing day, when eight policemen were killed by unknown assailants in Karan, a district of Mogadishu. Five hundred people were arrested as a result. Increased shelling and automatic rifle fire were reported as the USC and the army battled for control of the city.

Tokyo offers Baghdad aid if it pulls out of Kuwait

FROM JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

TOSHIKI Kaifu, Japan's prime minister, has offered economic aid to President Saddam Hussein if the Iraqi leader opts for a peaceful end to the Gulf confrontation.

Mr Kaifu said in a pre-recorded new year's message due to be broadcast today: "I hope that Iraq will make a decision for a peaceful solution. If it does, then Japan is prepared to provide aid for economic reconstruction."

Japan was Baghdad's biggest donor of aid, but after the invasion of Kuwait Tokyo froze 400 billion yen (£1.6 billion) in economic assistance, and suspended all financial transactions with Iraq.

But Mr Kaifu's latest initiative seems unlikely to persuade the rest of the world that Japan is about to

start setting its own international agenda or that it will begin to live up to its pledge to act more like the superpower it says it would like to be.

At the Houston summit last summer, Mr Kaifu seemed to be taking the first steps along a more independent path, when he broke ranks with Japan's allies by refusing aid to Moscow and by resuming relations with Peking. But after Houston came the Gulf confrontation, and once again Japan seemed to revert to a reactive role. Japan's recent failure to pass a bill that would have allowed it to send a token force of non-combat troops to the Gulf has undermined its inability to act decisively or quickly in times of crisis, particularly in unfamiliar areas.

Troops told patience leads to appeasement

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA



Meeting the troops: Vice-President Dan Quayle greeting marines at a Saudi base yesterday

DAN Quayle, the American vice-president, yesterday told forces stationed near the Kuwaiti border that they and President Bush had been "patient enough" in waiting for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

"The fact is that a policy of indefinite patience only could lead to a policy of appeasement," he told a gathering of marines, and this would make Iraq's President Saddam Hussein the victor in the Gulf confrontation.

Mr Quayle, on a morale-building mission, visited the Third Marine Aircraft Wing, the closest aircraft group to the border of occupied Kuwait. His tour, by helicopter and military lorry, also took him to a US Army regiment 40 miles from Kuwait, closer to the border than any other American forces.

Gas masks and champagne for an Armageddon party

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN MEGGIDO, ISRAEL

From the hilltop archaeological site at Meggido, a few miles inland from Haifa, a great plain stretches as far as the eye can see. This, according to the Bible, is Armageddon (from the Hebrew *Har Meggido*, or Meggido mountain), the scene of the final cosmic battle to come, the war between the Sons of Darkness and the Sons of Light.

In the past few days, some Israelis have begun to half-joke that Armageddon may come on or around January 15, if President Saddam Hussein, refusing to withdraw from Kuwait, launches a diversionary missile attack on Israel before the American-led allied forces in the Gulf

can attack him. "Book your grandstand seat now," said an American visitor at Meggido, walking round the 6,000-year-old remains of ruined cities and temples on the hill. In Jerusalem, members of the foreign community have caught the macabre mood. They are planning an "Armageddon party" on January 14, with gas masks and champagne.

The Israeli authorities, anxious to prepare the public for a possible war while at the same time preserving calm, have veered between reassurance and predictions of imminent conflict.

Israeli press reports have been similarly contradictory. One day reports say that Israel is certain to be attacked and will have to rely on its own defences without

counting on the United States. The next day, reports emphasise that President Saddam would be committing suicide if he dared to strike at Tel Aviv, given the overwhelming military strength of the Israelis (including their nuclear option), and that in any case Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, has been given guarantees of American military aid by President Bush.

There are other inconsistencies. Iraqi missiles can be fitted with chemical warheads and launched without warning; or, alternatively, Iraq does not have the technology to deliver poison gas by rocket and would have to load gas canisters on to bombers which would be destroyed by Israeli jets before they

even took off. Some reports say the United States was not told that Israel intended to test-fire its Arrow anti-missile system last week; others, that Washington knew full well, but wanted President Saddam to get the message that if the US did not attack him, Israel would.

America is refusing to provide Israel with "real-time intelligence" on Iraqi military movements unless Israel guarantees it will not launch a pre-emptive strike at Baghdad, some articles state; but as the newspaper *Haaretz* put it this week, American-Israeli intelligence co-operation is very close, and the US is playing it down to avoid alienating its new-found Arab allies.

Most Israelis, faced with these

contradictions, are going about their business normally.

There is some apprehension, as there was in August after the invasion of Kuwait and in October, when the authorities announced the distribution of gas masks.

This week nursing mothers were advised to abandon breastfeeding and accustom their babies to bottled milk, because bottles could be kept free of gas contamination.

A apocalyptically-minded biblical scholars can point to the aptness of the description of Armageddon given in the Book of Revelation. In this, the final battle begins over

the Euphrates amid "flashes of lightning, peals of thunder and a great earthquake such as has never been seen since men were on the earth." The city of Babylon, in modern Iraq, is destroyed "with great hailstones, heavy as a hundredweight, dropping from heaven".

Some Israelis, on the other hand, believe that President Saddam will avoid war by withdrawing from Kuwait at the last moment, agreeing to meet American officials, or pulling some other rabbit out of the hat.

Meggido itself offers a sense of perspective: cities have been built, destroyed and rebuilt on the site at least 20 times, and there have been many battles on the plain of Armageddon.

Hungarian budget paves way for vital IMF package

FROM ERNEST BECK IN BUDAPEST

AFTER weeks of bitter debate the Hungarian parliament yesterday approved a budget for 1991, making the country eligible for a crucial \$2 billion (£1.03 billion) emergency aid package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The 931-billion-forint (£7.8 billion) budget, passed by 214 votes to 128, meets IMF preconditions for a three-year accord with Hungary, which is burdened with eastern Europe's largest per capita foreign debt.

Albanian exodus increases

FROM CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

THE tide of Albanians seeking asylum in Greece swelled yesterday with the arrival of another 1,000 fugitives overnight.

The exodus continued as Constantine Mitsotakis, the Prime Minister, announced that he would pay a two-day official visit to Tirana on January 13, the first by a Greek government leader to the communist country. He will discuss the fate of the 400,000-strong ethnic Greek community and bilateral relations.

Yesterday's inflow was joined by two Albanian border guards who sailed a patrol boat to Corfu and asked for asylum. Six other refugees were picked up while swimming off Corfu.

Greece re-established diplomatic relations with Albania in 1987 while Athens was under socialist rule.

Mr Mitsotakis said that Greece hailed democratisation moves in Albania, adding that they would be "difficult."

Some of the fleeing refugees said they expected 2,000 to 3,000 men, women, and children to cross the barbed-wire border to Greece over the New Year holiday. Faced with the refugee influx, the Greek government insisted it had no plans to close the border with Albania, but a government spokesman, Byron Polydoros, appealed to the Greek minority in Albania to stay put and wait for "the inevitable" democratisation there.

Up to the weekend, 2,163 refugees had fled to Greece this year — 1,419 in December alone. At least six people have been shot dead by Albanian guards while trying to flee or drowned in unsuccessful attempts to swim to Corfu.

In another effort to discourage the exodus of Christians, the Church of Greece urged the Tirana regime to allow priests to travel to Albania for the feast of Epiphany on January 6th.

Balkan exiles hope for year of the monarchs

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

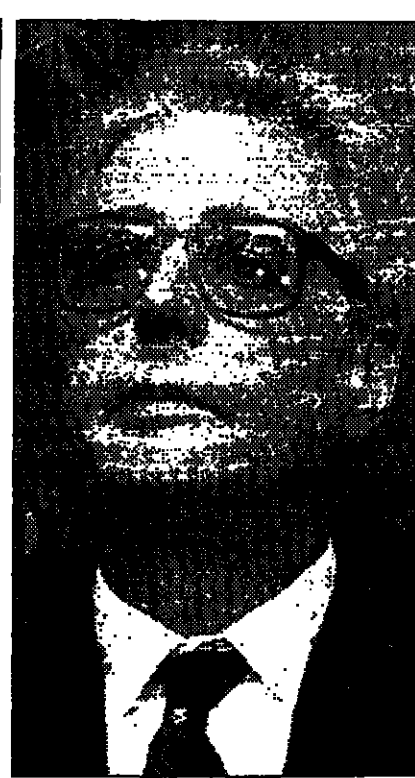
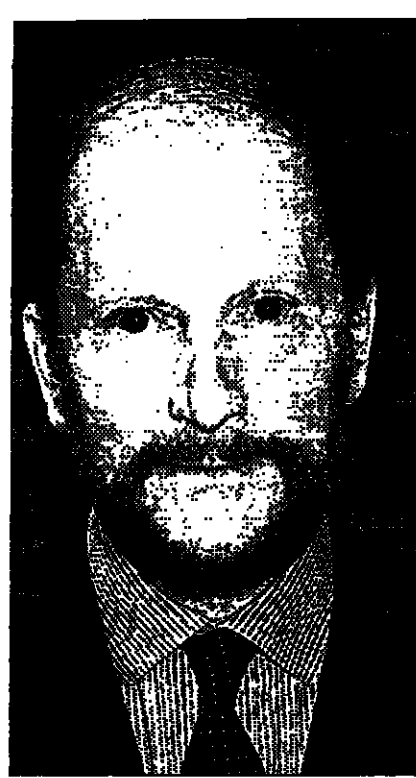
THE chaos attending the disintegration of old political structures in the Balkans raises the question as to whether three exiled monarchs might not find in 1991 their moment for a long awaited journey home.

The oldest of the three is the unfortunate King Michael of Romania who will be 70 next October. Banned from returning to his country by the Iliescu government, he believes Romania's predicament must ultimately be resolved by an adherence to the values of a constitutional monarchy.

Unfortunately, his occasional broadcasts to Romania from his Swiss home cut little ice in a country faced with corruption, bankruptcy and food shortages dismally similar to the worst days of the Ceausescu dictatorship.

Even Bucharest's intellectuals, several of whose parents served the monarchy, believe that the chances of a restoration are slim. The inability of the king's daughters to communicate in Romanian during their visits to Romania is seen as a serious handicap.

Nevertheless, those who know the king, who has eked out an existence in Switzerland, say he should not be underestimated. His childhood education alongside Hungarian and German children from Transylvania make



Three kings in waiting: Michael of Romania, left, Simeon of Bulgaria, centre, and Leka of Albania

him uniquely qualified to deal with the ethnic tensions which cast a long shadow over his country's future.

More popular, and some would say more politically gifted, is King Simeon of Bulgaria. Proclaimed king as a minor after his father, Boris, died in mysterious circumstances during the second

world war, he was forced to flee Bulgaria after a rigged communist referendum.

As in Romania, the former communists in power in Bulgaria have succeeded in preventing King Simeon from visiting his homeland.

Even Podkrepa, the independent trade union movement, believes that the king

should return. Georgi Arpadjiov, one of its leaders, said recently: "We cannot ignore the fact that the monarchies in Europe are amongst the most stable countries in the world. But we must first democratise Bulgaria before we invite his majesty back". Increasing signs that the former communists' grip on Bul-

garia is waning suggest that 1991 might be the right moment for the king to return.

Related as he is to so many prosperous European royal houses through the fertile German house of Saxe-Coburg, his arrival in Sofia would be accompanied at the very least by Western goodwill. King Simeon lives in

Spain where he is a close friend of the royal family, who have shown dramatically how dictatorship can be transformed into a prosperous and popular constitutional monarchy.

In Bulgaria, King Simeon's picture over the past few months has become an increasingly visible icon in the empty shops.

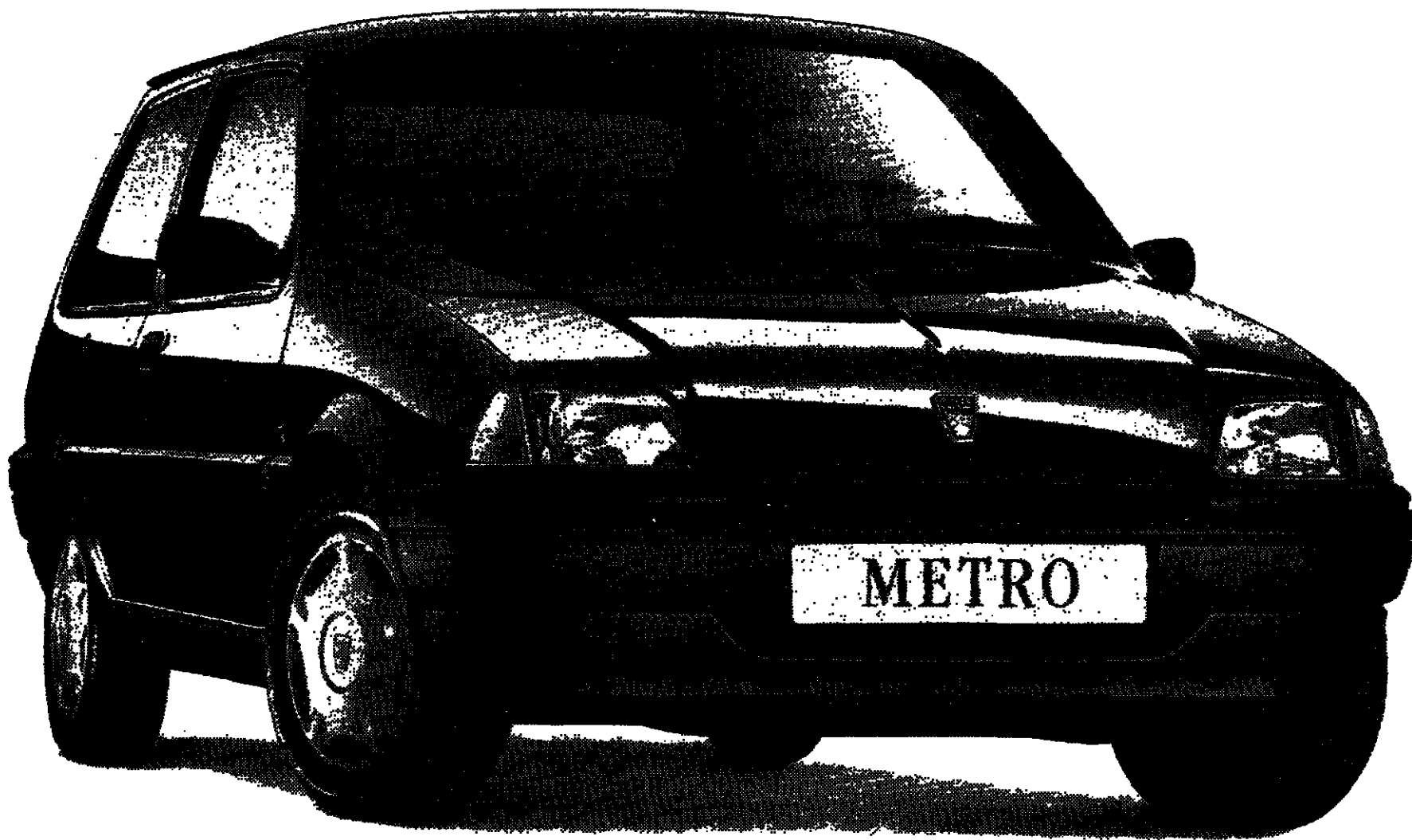
Less predictable is the future role of the monarchy in Albania. King Leka, who was last in Albania as a two-day-old baby before being forced to flee by the invading Italians with his parents, King Zog and Queen Geraldine, is watching developments in his country very carefully.

Those who have met King Leka, who proclaimed himself king in 1961 on the death of his father, are divided over his qualities. One British MP, who knows him very well, believes that he has inherited some of his father's political acumen and intelligence. Others, including some who through wartime service have had long acquaintance with Albania, admit to "finding it difficult to quite take the man seriously".

To the three wishful kings, there must also be added Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia. The crown prince is also following events in his country carefully. As a Yugoslav patriot, he is determined that Yugoslavia should not disintegrate.

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THE NEW METRO

Romania abortions reach 1m in 1990

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

ONE million abortions were carried out in Romania last year, following the downfall of the Ceausescu regime. Health figures for 1990, in a ministry figures for 1990, in a country of 5.5 million women of child bearing age, reflect Nicolae Ceausescu's effective ban on abortions and contraception as part of his megalomaniac attempt to double the country's population of 23 million. The numbers represent three abortions for every live birth. In Western countries the average is one abortion for every three live births.

Abortion and contraception were legalised in the first decree made by Romania's provisional government at the height of the 1989 Christmas revolution, but only became widely available in the past two months.

Today Romania has the most liberal abortion laws in Europe and the operation is the same price as a bottle of beer. The cost is the same as in 1966 when abortions were outlawed. "We are deliberately keeping the price low," said Dr Alin Stanescu, director-general of the ministry of health's mother and child protection department, "because we want to discourage women from continuing to have back street abortions."

However, the number of deaths after illegal abortions has dropped steeply, from more than 1,000 in 1989 to

perhaps 80 last year, according to Dr Sorin Puia, head of the Professor Sirbu obstetrics and gynaecology hospital in Bucharest. He has been collating figures along with the ministry and said that 400,000 women were treated by Romanian hospitals in 1989 for the effects of self-induced or back street abortions.

Dr Puia said that about 600,000 women had undergone abortions in 1990.

Dr Stanescu now wants a campaign to educate people. "We are starting from below zero," he said. "People are terribly ignorant and it is not that easy to change attitudes."

This view was confirmed by Oana Farcasanu, aged 21, a student at Bucharest University who said that she had a girlfriend who would "prefer to spend the money on a kilo of tomatoes and then have an abortion rather than spend the money on contraception."

Another woman said that apart from condoms, it was not true that contraceptives were now easily available. She said: "There are still not enough to go around. To make sure you can get the pill or whatever other type of contraceptive device you want, you've still got to have the right connections or bribe."

As contraception becomes more widely used, the numbers of abortions are expected to fall significantly.

Fresh unto the fray

Woodrow Wyatt

John Major is precisely one year and a day younger than Neil Kinnock, who was born on March 28, 1942. Never before, possibly, have two such youthful contenders challenged each other for the post of prime minister.

In this era of presidential-style elections, public feelings about the rival leaders are of overwhelming importance. It seems probable that Mr Major will remain *in situ*, though given the unappealing behaviour of Tory MPs when they think their seats may be threatened, it is only a racing certainty; and racing certainties do not always last the course.

There is a slight shadow over Mr Kinnock, who can no longer claim to understand younger generations better than his opponent. There is general agreement that Labour led, say, by John Smith, would have a stronger chance of victory. Deposing Mr Kinnock would be more difficult than getting rid of Mr Attlee, whom Cripps, Morrison and Dalton wanted to replace with Ernest Bevin in the summer of 1947. Bevin told Cripps to say this direct to Attlee, which Cripps fumbled.

By the present rules Mr Kinnock could be challenged before the next election, but Labour is sentimentally more kind and loyal to its leaders than Tory MPs. Even if Mr Kinnock's position in the opinion polls approached vanishing point, it is nearly unthinkable that the union leaders, who are Labour's paymasters, would allow the cumbersome voting procedure of a leadership challenge (in which their large vote is decisive) to be set in motion.

The Mori poll in *The Sunday Times* giving Labour a four-point lead suggests that voters may already be disenchanted with Mr Major. Even allowing for the deceptiveness and volatility of opinion polls, Mr Kinnock is certainly not done for yet.

However, in the September before the June 1987 election, Labour had a 5.5 per cent lead, which was transformed into a Conservative majority of more than 100 against all comers.

Mr Kinnock has considerable assets. He is perceived, whether accurately or not, as having brought Labour's wild left under control. He is widely thought to be determined to lead a moderate government that would not greatly savage the Thatcher reforms of the unions or privatisation. In the public mind, not concerned with the small print, he appears to have been converted to the belief that the profit motive is essential in the creation of wealth. He is looked on as almost a Thatcherite, albeit anxious to display the vague and caring image now adopted by the leaders of the other two main parties. A helpful impression has been spread that Mr Kinnock

As a new year begins, Bernard Levin reflects on time's inexorable scars

Life's great riddle, and no time to find its meaning

Considering the number of times I have said that if I were minded to make away with myself I would certainly do it on New Year's Eve, I think my readers would be well advised to turn this page for a moment, to see if my obituary is on the next verso. No? Then I shall continue.

"Another year" — another deadly blow, said Wordsworth, adding, "And we are left, or shall be left, alone". Too many of my friends and acquaintances, heedless of my exhortations, have taken to dying, choosing 1990 to do it in; there was one horrendous visitation which obliged me to deliver two memorial addresses in a week.

I am not normally a gloomy fellow; I flatter myself that I can still set the table on a roar. But the end of a year is inevitably a measuring; someone rang me up a few weeks ago to ask if I would be interviewed under the heading "My health and I" (that's nothing where lunacy is concerned — another interview was requested for, so help me, a series called "My image and I", and after I had declined, which was immediately, and giggled a bit, which was soon after, it occurred to me that 1990 had included not only fallen arches (well, one fallen arch) but about 240 yards of computer print-out on the couch of a most diligent cardiologist searching for the visible traces of an irregular heart-beat which he had happened upon auscultationally. (Don't be alarmed; I have had an irregular heartbeat since I was born, and it has not troubled me. He was only seeking the evidence and providing assurance.)



There are other aspects of mortality. I used to have an exceptional memory; indeed it was so exceptional that it was truly freakish. But there was a trap in it, which I never spotted; because I could retrieve at will and with the greatest exactitude matter many years or even decades old, I kept no files, no cuttings, no sources, nothing. So perfect was my recall that for years I did not even keep an address-book, knowing that the details required were ready to be produced from the appropriate synapse. Now, the familiar stigma of fading memory can be seen in an inability to remember people's names, for instance, or a doubt as to whether I have already said that letter; this, as I say, is a familiar experience as the years advance, but for me the pain is greater than for most, because I have to measure the natural level of fading memory against the unnatural level of my former success.

I suppose I am clearing the decks. Motley is a very good symbol of the necessity, of knowing what we cannot do. Once, we thought we could do anything, and you would be amazed at the length of time it took to make me understand that that is a fallacy. I am on to the end of their lives never knowing that they have wasted reality in the chase of a dream. Yet even I cannot gainsay that "coming to terms" is one of the most depressing phrases ever coined.

beyond measure to find that I can no longer do so.

But it is worse even than that. The other day, a most cheering announcement was made: it seems that Birmingham is going to be pulled down. Unfortunately, it is going to be put up again, but that cannot be helped. The point, where I was concerned, was that the key date of the rebuilding is to be 1995. I repeat: I am not given to gloom, let alone general pessimism, but the thought came into my head unbidden, and bid it leave as I might, it stayed there, thumbing its nose at me. Would I see the end of Birmingham's reconstruction? (I have no wish to do so, of course, because whatever they put in its place will be at least as hideous as what is to be demolished, but I wouldn't want to miss it for that reason.)

And how about this? In a couple of weeks' time I shall celebrate 70 that is the word, and the way I feel at the moment it certainly is not the 20th anniversary of the first column I wrote for *The Times*. William Rees-Mogg, who had not long since become the editor, invited me to join the paper, and I did so at the beginning of 1970 (also the year my first book was published). *The Times* office was then still at Printing House Square, and space was by no means easy to come by (it is a damned sight more difficult at Wapping, I can tell you — or even

if I can't, my colleagues can and will), and I parked myself in his outer office and got down to work. He had initially asked me to write one column a week, but a year or so later he asked me to do two, and later on raised it, so help me, to three. (That nearly killed me — so nearly, indeed, that I eventually took an immense sabbatical, well over a year long, and came back determined never again to write more than once a week; you see how my promise was kept.)

I have been fortunate beyond most journalists in my relations with *Times* editors: the present one is the fifth I have worked with, and never a cross word. Waitings and moanings, yes; Rees-Mogg's screams of horror, as he contemplated yet another couple of thousand words of the most extravagant libel, could be heard on the other side of the Thames.

Mind you, I was in at the birth of one of the most magnificent phrases an editor ever finished a leader with. He came out of his room one day, put a galley-proof on my desk, and said, "Can I really print that?" I looked at it, and replied, "If you don't print it, I will never speak to you again." It was, of course, the famous peroration: "Anyway, George Brown drunk is a better man than Harold Wilson sober."

Twenty years a columnist! I am sure that I do not hold the record, but I would be interested to know

who does. Of course, there have been journalistic careers lasting 50 years or more, but the very existence of the modern columnist is very recent as newspapers go; certainly I was the first of these on *The Times*. To think that I have been giving my opinion — which is the rough and ready definition of the breed — year in and year out for two decades, chills my blood, which has anyway cooled quite enough for my liking with the passing of time. I hope — well, I suppose — that unless I go completely gaga I shall never run out of opinions to express; I have never yet sat down to write a column without having at least three suitable subjects in mind, and that's a comfort, I can tell you.

Yes, but what about the rest of it? To put it bluntly: have I time to discover why I was born before I die? Silly question: the knowledge can come, complete and rounded, in the twinkling of an eye (an assurance first given to the Corinthians), and I am no more barred from the discovery than anyone else. Nevertheless, I have to admit that I have not managed to answer the question yet, and however many years I have before me they are certainly not as many as there are behind. There is an obvious danger in leaving it too late, but there is a still more intriguing question in this exploration: why do I have to know why I was born?

Because, of course, I am unable to believe that it was an accident; and if it wasn't one, it must have a meaning, from which follows the truth that with sufficient diligence and determination a meaning can always be understood. Villon, whom I read more and more now, summed up the desperation of the unanswered question:

Prince, je congnois tout en somme,
Je congnois coulurez et bleimes,
Je congnois Mori qui tout consume,
Je congnois tout, fors que moy mesmes.

No, I cannot translate it; it is untranslatable, and always will be. I have 17 versions on my shelves, including German and Italian ones, and they are all perfectly dreadful. Even translating Villon into modern French destroys it. Shut up and read him in the original until you understand.

"Until you understand"; must we be in some other-world corner with a dunce's cap on, until our darkness is lightened? No, it cannot be like that; nothing is given, but everything is there to seek. Nor am I convinced that when the ultimate question is put to me, and I reply "Well, I was a frightfully good columnist for at least twenty years" it will be judged sufficient. True, this is the first day of Mozart's year, and if we listen carefully until New Year's Eve 1991 we can get some tips; but even they will be only tips on how to seek the answer, not the answer itself.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God." But what about poor devils like me, who suffer so badly from St Vitus's dance that we cannot be still? Perhaps, after all, I did take the rat-poison as the clocks chimed midnight; have another peek at the obits, would you? But stay: Surely such dreadful and momentous news would be on the front page. Turn back!

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I push a button. Oh look, it is New Year's Day 2021! What shall I do? I shall celebrate the centenary of the Naafi. I shall also sow lettuce, radish, and broad beans. I should cut back deciduous shrubs as well, but I am 82, and planting the veg is all my squeaking vertebrae can handle. I shall just huddle back into my house and pour that Naafi stuff.

I know it is my house, because I have pushed another button and, oh look, I paid off my mortgage on July 21, 1997. The centenary of the Tate Gallery, as a matter of fact: I have made a note of that because there will almost certainly be a big formal knees-up to which they could very well invite me, as a senior back, and I shouldn't want to miss it. Which I won't, because an alarm will go off, reminding me to get into my tuxedo. I would go there by bus, if I had a bus pass, but, oh look, I have just pushed a button again, and I do not get my bus pass until June 27, 2003, and there's no point going on a bus until it's free.

And, since you ask, yes, I know exactly what I shall be doing on June 27, 2038. Reading a telegram from the King is what. Unless of course Her Present Majesty is spared, in which case it could well take the gift off the encandied gingerbread to receive a message from someone of 112, and I a mere ton. Not that I won't have other things on my mind: the car's due for a 400,000-mile service that day. I believe that's one of the major ones, new plugs, new points, everything.

How do I know all this? Can I read the future? Oh yes. No question. I just push buttons, and the future comes up on the screen of my Atari Portfolio personal organiser. Probably, if she's not reading this, the most horrible Christmas present I have ever had. It is an electronic diary which will accept appointments up to and including 2050, when I shall be 112 too, and I have just spent four long days programming it with everything I can think of, all linked to an automatic search and alarm system.

At 128K RAM, the diary

claims to be twice the size of its nearest competitor. I would not know about that. I am content to recognise that it is about a million times the size of its nearest owner, a conclusion I came to on Boxing Day when I attempted to enter items which the machine immediately reminded me I had programmed in the night before, but had forgotten about. That is part of why I hate it so much: as time goes on, the gap between what I know about me and what I know about me can only grow wider. When I am finally senile (well before, on present trends, my 112th), it will be me. I shall have lost all that I was, and it will have all that there was of me before I lost it.

The rest of what I hate about it is even worse. For one thing, it has forced me to tempt Providence as never before. In order to remind myself to begin collecting my pension, I have to assume I shall be around to collect it. It is an assumption which I discover, generates a superstitiousness I never knew I possessed. For another thing, in inviting me to jot down the rest of my life, it exposes me to the hitherto carefully repressed recognition that what is guessable to come looks considerably less enjoyable than what has been. Grow old along with me, the second-best is yet to be: *Lose hearing* is not quite so appealing a notional entry as *Lose virginity*.

But most unsettling of all is its peripheral flexibility. This means that the Portfolio may be linked to an external printer, so that every day, from now until 2050, it does not need to have its buttons pressed at all to cough up its contents; it can just wake itself up in the morning with its little buzzer, and print out what I am to do that day. Or, of course, what I would have been doing had I still been around to do it. It is an electronic urn, forever printing and forever young.

"What's that clacketing noise?" they will ask after the funeral. "Oh look, the poor old sod thought he was going to the Thackeray Bicentennial Ball tonight! Life's a funny old game, innit?"

Small change at No 10

John Major not only preaches thrift, as in his New Year message, but actively practises it. Six weeks after the event, it emerges that the entire campaign to install the champion of classlessness in Number 10 cost less than the price of a reasonable second-hand car.

While Michael Heseltine's long and abortive attempt is thought to have set him back £100,000 a year, Major's five-day blitzkrieg cost a mere £6,000; and taking personal thrills to the limit, it was all paid for by a mystery benefactor. Norman Lamont, one of Major's principal cheerleaders, demonstrated the good-housekeeping qualities necessary for a Chancellor of the Exchequer by keeping a note of every penny spent.

It was all done so cheaply thanks partly to Alan Duncan, a wealthy oil trader and prospective parliamentary candidate for Rutland and Melton. He offered his house, only a few hundred yards from the Commons, as the campaign headquarters within a few hours of Major announcing his candidature.

A 10-line telephone system was already installed. Four extra lines were put in for Major's team, at a cost of £150 each, and the telephone bill for the duration of the campaign was a further £1,000. Instead of buying a photo-copier, one was hired.

So detailed was Lamont's expenditure list that even ten crystal wine glasses broken in the celebration party were accounted for and replaced. Duncan's wine cellar, depleted by some 50 bottles of Sainsbury's and Marks &

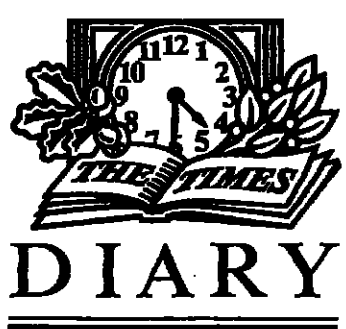
Spencer dry white and numerous bottles of claret, was also restocked.

At the personal insistence of Richard Ryder, the new chief whip, an Axminster carpet was bought for Duncan's sitting room, after the existing one had been spattered with some of that celebratory claret.

Duncan says: "The whole campaign was remarkably cost-efficient. I should think William Pitt the Younger's election in 1804 probably cost more than John Major's." The total certainly compares favourably with the £49 million spent by Ronald Reagan in 1983-4 to retain the presidency. His rival, Walter Mondale, spent £51 million... and lost.

Cricket commentator Brian Johnston's CBE is likely to cause further headaches for Bryan Johnson, the veteran actor. Johnson, who regularly appeared with the late Sir Donald Wolfit, has been receiving fan-mail intended for his near namesake for years, and was inundated with congratulatory letters when Johnston got an OBE in a previous list. Now he is bracing himself for another avalanche.

Cut-throat no more Luciano Pavarotti, who last night sang with Dame Joan Sutherland at Covent Garden, is to perform again with his great rival Placido Domingo. They have sung together only once before (with that other great tenor, José Carreras) in Rome at the climax of the World Cup. Now they are to team up in Vienna under the baton of Claudio Abbado to record Rossini's *Barber of Seville* for Deutsche Grammophon. Pavarotti will sing the role of the amorous young Count Almaviva, a character he has



never sung on stage. Domingo will sing Figaro, a role usually reserved for a baritone.

Europolyglot

Antonia Byatt will remember 1990 as the year in which she was both poacher and gamekeeper. In addition to picking up £20,000 as Booker prize-winner for her novel *Possession*, she spent a substantial chunk of the year judging the EC literature prize. It was a daunting task that involved her reading more than 30 entries in French, German and Spanish as well as an Italian translation of the Portuguese entry. "Had I known what I was taking on I'm not sure I would have agreed," she says. "It chewed up a lot of my life. The German judge developed an eye infection and a Belgian judge resigned. Meetings were conducted in a mixture of English and French."

The eventual winner of the £14,000 prize (paid in euros) was French-born Jean Echenoz, for his novel *Lac*. "An elegant spy thriller involving the placing of electronic bugging devices on files," she says. This saturation course in continental literature has not dimmed Byatt's Euro-enthusiasm. Asked

by BBC radio for her favourite people of the year, alongside novelists and academics, she nominated Sir Geoffrey Howe "for his stand on Europe".

Clapped out

The massed bells of Dublin's Christ Church and St Patrick's cathedrals clattered a farewell to 1990 last night and signalled the beginning of the Irish capital's reign as European City of Culture in succession to Glasgow. But one famous bell tower in the city, that of St George's church, was silent for the first time in 150 years. Because of dwindling con-

gregations, the church has closed and the bells have been removed to a parish church in the suburbs. Devotees of *Ulysses*, in which Leopold and Molly Bloom hear the bells of St George's, will be sad to learn that another part of Joyce's city has disappeared.

They used them to wake the Finnegans



Acquaintances forgot With Chequers remaining for the moment beyond his grasp, Neil Kinnock broke with tradition last night

and, with his wife Glens, hosted a private party for friends and close political associates at a municipal hall in Ealing.

In previous years the Labour leader has greeted the new year with his lusty rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* in a favoured Brentford pub. Details of last night's bash were kept secret, with Kinnock's staff insisting that the guest list was private. But it seems that many who might have been expected were far from anxious to go.

Shadow chancellor John Smith spurned the delights of Ealing for a walking tour in Scotland, while Glenda Jackson, Labour's celebrity election candidate and a friend of Mrs Kinnock, said she was "very excited about the New Year... because I am spending it at home".

One person definitely not enjoying a knees-up with his leader was the don't-give-a-damn Edinburgh MP Ron Brown, who celebrated Hogmanay at home in Scotland. "We will have scotch broth and home-made steak pie and see in the New Year in traditional style," he said. "It would be too yuppie in Ealing with the Kinnocks. Not my scene at all."

The mayor of Barcelona will have kept his fingers crossed when he switched on the city's New Year illuminations last night. They were bought second-hand from Blackpool, and could have caused even greater confusion than the lights which Derby similarly bought from an east coast resort. The workmen who put them up did not bother with a trial run. As a result, motorists arriving in Derby wondered how they could be so far off target when they encountered the sign "Welcome to Cleethorpes".

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COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
January 1: Ruth, Lady Fernoy has succeeded the Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Edmund Burke, statesman and writer, 1731-1797; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackbourn, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; Henry Handel Richardson (Henrietta Richardson), novelist, Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879.

DEATHS: William Wycherley, dramatist, London, 1716; Johann Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1748; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1904; Maurice Chevalier, Paris, 1928; John Aloysius Costello, prime minister of Ireland 1948-51, 1954-57, 1976.

Royal tours
The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit India at the invitation of the President in February.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit Washington, DC, in May 1991.

Archbishop prays for Terry Waite

DR ROBERT RUNCIE today delivered his final new year message as the Archbishop of Canterbury with a prayer that Terry Waite, his special envoy, would be released in 1991.

Dr Runcie, who retires in a month, used his traditional message to reflect on his 10 years as archbishop, particularly remembering Mr Waite, aged 51, who was kidnapped in January 1987. "A lot of prayers and work are directed towards his return and I'm sure you will join me in praying that he and others in the Lebanon will be released in 1991," Dr Runcie said.

"The tragedy of Terry's captivity has been accompanied by an enormous and continuous wave of prayer across the world and support for his family, which has sustained them in their distress."

Speaking on BBC1, Dr Runcie celebrated the positive virtues he had encountered. "It's been said that my time in office has coincided with the 'Me' generation. But frankly I've seen too much kindness, self-sacrifice and generosity to believe that to be true."

"I do, though, see some justification for calling it the 'Now' generation. The past is more than a snapshot nostalgia. Without a deeper sense of the past we may lose gifts God has given us for handling the present."

The journalist John McKelvey, aged 31, and Jack Mann, aged 76, the former Battle of Britain fighter pilot, are the other British hostages held in Lebanon.

OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID PIPER

Sir David Towry Piper, CBE, director of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, from 1973 to 1985, died on December 27, aged 72. He was born on July 21, 1918.



BRITAIN has the ability to throw up museum and gallery directors who are articulate and much more broadly steeped in civilisation than is strictly necessary even for the jobs they hold. Sir David Piper illuminated the English scene not just as a museum director, for which he was amply qualified, but also as an author of books on London and portraiture and even as a novelist.

Not surprisingly, he never threw off his interest in faces. His books showed his fascination with the way artists saw them — which went with his job as an assistant keeper at the National Portrait Gallery in 1946, then as director, keeper and secretary between 1964-7. His career also took off into the academic world and spanned Oxfordshire as well as becoming director and Marlay curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, he was elected fellow of Christ's College. He was Slade professor of fine art at Oxford from 1966-7, and Clark lecturer (1977-8) then Rede lecturer (1983) at Cambridge.

His greatest triumph was his direction of the Ashmolean Museum. There had previously been no director of the museum, its direction having been in the hands of whoever was the senior departmental keeper at the time. By 1967 there were four departments that had become accustomed to a degree of independence that was sometimes unruly. To keep the balance, a greater degree of centralisation of the museum was decided upon, and in 1973 Piper was appointed the first director, and elected fellow of Worcester College.

If the four departments were on the look-out for interference in their affairs, they met with none, for he stepped on no toes. Never interfering in detail but always being accessible, he gave the departments free rein to develop their individualities and their diversity. With his firm aesthetic standards, his clear idea of what needed to be done, and his way of getting it done, he directed the museum with self-confidence, unobtrusive strength, subtle diplomacy, and gentle irony. His professional knowledge of the museum world greatly strengthened the Ashmolean, and his cautiously sympathetic attitude to innovation moved it with the times in a changing Oxford.

Something of his personal ideals comes out in *Trial by Battle*, a second world war novel, which chose jungle fighting against the Japanese as the ordeal. Piper's own health suffered when he was captured by the Japanese on the Malaysian Peninsula while serving with the 9th Jat Regiment of the Indian Army.

Alan Mart, his hero or victim, is of a kind once very common in English fiction: quiet, civil, sensitive, questioning but obedient. Evidently from a public school, he has since been to Cambridge, and almost forgotten the necessity to conform and to emulate more sturdily, spontaneous males. Without implying a comparison, Piper went to Clifton College, and then to St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

He was very early on fascinated by *The English Face*, the title of a book he produced in 1957 when on the staff of the National Portrait Gallery. Already his scholarship was being directed by an unusually perceptive imagination. He assembled 145 portraits from the beginning of naturalistic portraiture in 1400, to 1900. He said the object was to show how their relationship to the flesh and blood which they represented was controlled — by artistic and sartorial fashions, by the individualities of the sitter and the artist, and how through time that relationship altered. The book indicated his ability to discern subterranean movements that give rise to change, as well as to see it analytically in an historic context.

The faces of London and Oxford were hardly less fascinating to him. In 1964 he wrote *The Companion Guide to London*, which *The Times* said turned out to be a surprisingly rare thing, a book about London that deserved to be read as literature. "Strangers no less than citizens will find Mr Piper a lively civilised companion as well as guide."

He returned to his subject to write *London* in 1971, which showed that being civilised involves discernment and does not mean acceptance of the merely monumental. He described the tombs and monuments in Westminster Abbey as "the paraphernalia of the illustrious English dead."

His two interests came together in *Artists' London* (1982), which begins with Tudor and Stuart cartographers and leaves the reader wondering with him why the railways did not inspire great art; or why — apart from Ford Madox Brown's *Work* set in Hampstead High Street — London did not appeal to the Pre-Raphaelites. There was no question in his mind about the master: "The moodiest, most haunting visual poetry that has ever been spun out of London was Monet's."

The breadth of his scholarship was again disclosed in the *Treasures of Oxford*, a guide to all the art collections in the university and city of Oxford, with an excursion to Blenheim Palace. The survey was illustrated by more than 120 reproductions.

He leaves a widow, Anne, and a son and three daughters.

Dublin takes over as city of culture

By SIMON TAIT AND STEPHANIE BELLEN

DUBLIN today takes over Glasgow's mantle as European City of Culture for the year with a budget 15 times smaller and a twentieth the number of events planned.

Highlights will be the opening of a Museum of Modern Art and Writing, a season of Samuel Beckett plays, an international piano competition, and a performance of Handel's *Water Music* on the Liffey.

The city has £3.5 million for its 200 events, with funding from the Irish National Lottery augmented by local authorities, commercial sponsors, cultural institutions, tourist boards and the European Community. Glasgow had £50 million to spend on its 4,000 events.

The Scots can look back on the opening of a £27-million concert hall and the £2.5 million McLellan Galleries, plus the Bolshoi Opera's first British visit, the current Van Gogh exhibition and the performances of *The Ship*, the play about the city's ship-building industry, which attracted an audience of 47,000.

Glasgow used 1990 to establish a cultural infrastructure on which it could build. Dublin, the city of Swift, Sheridan, Wilde, Joyce and Beckett — not that whom had to make their reputations abroad — is already rich in its cultural traditions and new theatre, literature and music are thriving. Marian Fitzgibbon, press officer for the year of culture, described the place as a fruitcake of culture: "We are merely putting the icing on."

Lewis Clohesy was appointed director of the year 14 months ago. "We have been blessed by anniversaries next year — everything from the 75th of the Easter Rising and

the 50th of James Joyce's death to the 250th of the first performance of *The Messiah* and the 800th of St Patrick's Cathedral," he said. "We've finally put something together and I think we'll get there, if just by the skin of our teeth."

Assembling the budget was difficult, Miss Fitzgibbon said. "We got just £1.25 million from the National Lottery and £100,000 from the EC. We had to go around with the begging bowl and managed to bring in more than £1 million in sponsorship."

Anthony Cronin, adviser on the arts to the Irish prime minister, said Dublin should not try to compete with Glasgow which had to pull itself up "by the bootstraps". Many of the events linked to Dublin's cultural year had been in the pipeline for a decade or more.

"Dubliners are proud of their city and they will warm to the idea," he said.

The Museum of Modern Art and Writing is to open in May in the Royal Hospital in Kildare. Built in 1680, it now houses German, Flemish, Dutch and British art from the 16th to the 20th century, but it will be more than 50 modern paintings donated to the Irish state including many by the Australian painter Sir Sidney Nolan.

The season of plays by Samuel Beckett, who died in his adopted home of Paris a year ago, is to be staged at the Gate theatre in October. Michael Colgan, the theatre's director, said he believed that Ireland's cultural and geographical insulation from the mainland could be eased during 1991. "Our Beckett presentations will include French and English involvement and we will show Beckett as a truly European writer."

the sinking of the *Blanche*

Jewellery demonstrates early goldsmiths' skills
By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

GOLDSMITHS in ancient South America were able to manipulate their alloys with considerable precision despite rudimentary equipment, according to a recent study. The smiths were able to work with metals with melting points only 75 deg C apart to assemble pieces of jewellery.

The discovery comes from the analysis of two small gold studs, probably made as lip or nose ornaments, from the site of La Tolita on the coast of Ecuador. Although the precise date of the studs is unknown, the local tradition of metal-working began before the time of Christ and continued until the Spanish conquest.

Such facial ornaments were made with a flat outer disc and a cylindrical shank that passed through the flesh; the latter was usually only 1-2mm in diameter, similar to that on a modern ear-ring, and the head was 3-6mm across.

The two parts were made separately and then soldered together. It is in the subtly different composition of the solder that the ancient metallurgists' skill is most obviously displayed. Drs D.A.

Desmond Clarke entered the world of horticulture on leaving the BBC after the second world war, when he made weekly broadcasts to Yugoslavia. He devoted almost 15 years to revising the four volumes of *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*, by W.J. Bean, an internationally acclaimed and detailed botanical and horticultural guide.

So skilful was the revision that the original, personal and highly readable style of Bean has been preserved, yet at the same time the nomenclature and cultural details have been updated. This was followed by the compilation of a supplement, in effect a fifth volume, notable for its inclusion of new species and cultivars and contributions on pests and diseases of woody plants. His achievements were marked by the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society, its highest award, given to British horticulturalists whom the society considers deserving of special honour. He also received the society's gold Veitch Memorial Medal, for helping the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture.

Clarke was generally recognised in horticultural circles to be the only single person (as opposed to a team) who could have revised Bean, for not only did he have the time but was meticulous in his approach to his work, and also an excellent practical horticulturalist and dendrologist. He was a member of the International Dendrology Society.

Expeditions to Kashmir, Chile and Argentina helped to increase his knowledge of trees and shrubs. He became particularly interested in South American woody plants and grew a collection of more than 100 varieties in his large garden in Haslemere, Surrey, which he also used for trials and research, growing collections of woody plants that he needed to study and compare for the revision.

Clarke was a member of the management committee at Borde Hill Garden, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, and helped to compile another major reference work, *Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs*, with Roy Lancaster.

Clarke never married and was retiring by nature, disliking crowds. This was one reason why he was never seen at horticultural events and shows. He preferred to write to horticulturalists while revising Bean and assembled a large collection of correspondence and a large library, which includes many rare books on woody plants.

DESMOND CLARKE

Desmond Lacy Clarke, an authority on trees and shrubs, died on December 26, aged 76. He was born on September 10, 1914.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Bell-Ogilby and Miss V.C. Watson
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr Maxwell G. Bell, of Victoria, Australia, and Mrs Joy-Lyn Bell-Ogilby and stepson of Mr Peter G. Ogilby, of Melbourne, Australia, and Vanessa, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard C. Watson, of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire.

Mr D.J. Bickerton and Miss J.R. Penman
The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Bruce Bickerton, of Fellside, Pantymwyn, Mold, Clwyd, and Juliet Rachel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Gordon Penman, of Stock, Essex.

Mr J.H. Boardman and Miss B.J. Myers
The engagement is announced between Jeremy Hugh, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Boardman, of Wilmslow, Cheshire, and Beverly Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Norman Myers, of Redford, Nottinghamshire.

Mr J.C.F. Bower and Miss C.M.J. Meyrick
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr Colin Bower, of Kensington, London, and Mrs Wendy Scott-Dickins, of Risbury, Herefordshire, and Myfanwy, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Meyrick, of Widdford, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.E.J. Brandt and Miss D.C. Lew
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Mr and Mrs M. Brandt, of Skipton, North Yorkshire, and Deborah, daughter of Mr K.F.G. Law, of Exeter, and Mrs R.P. Law, of Outry St Mary, Devon.

Dr N.B. Broughton and Miss E.R. Jones
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs T. Broughton, of Skipton, North Yorkshire, and Elaine, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.B. Jones, of Little Hadham, Hertfordshire.

Mr J.J. Cook and Miss L.J. Jenkins
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Judge Michael Cook, of Limsfield, Surrey, and Mrs Anne Brown, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Lin, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Jenkins, of Martella, Spain.

Mr P. Davis and Miss C.D. Gibson
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of the late Mr G.F. Davis and of Mrs M.D. Davis, of Rownham, Southampton.

Mr A.D. French and Miss M.S. Carpenter
The engagement is announced between Andrew Dennis, son of Mr and Mrs D. French, from Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, and Marilyn Serena, daughter of Mrs L. Carpenter from Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

Mr W.J.W. Glazebrook and Miss S.H. Parkes
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs W.F. Glazebrook, of Bodfry, Clwyd, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs B.E. Parkes, of The Peak, Hong Kong.

Mr R.D.W. Haas and Miss D.M. Stamp
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs Leonard Haas, of Torquay, and Deirdre, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Stamp, of Coffs Harbour, New South Wales, Devonshire.

Dr S.A. Jackson and Miss B.W. Davies
The engagement is announced between Dr S.A. Jackson, of Devon Fawr, Swansea, is pleased to announce the engagement of his younger daughter, Bethan-Wyn to Simon, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.T. Jackson, of Surbiton, Surrey.

Mr A.R.K. James and Miss C.E. Woodward
The engagement is announced between Andrew, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.M. James, of Highgate, London, and Catherine, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Woodward, of Wells, Somerset.

Mr W.F. Knottenbelt and Miss C.J. Stewart
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Mr Frederick Hendrik Knottenbelt and of Mrs Elizabeth Knottenbelt, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, and Christina, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.D.C. (Bunny) Stewart, of Pyrford, Surrey.

Mr D.R. Knowles and Miss G.R. Skipper
The engagement is announced between Darrell, son of Mr and Mrs John Knowles, of Tynewydd, Mid Glamorgan, and Georgia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Skipper, of Wilburton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr T.W. Leader and Miss L.M. Forbes-Leith
The engagement is announced between Thomas, son of Mr H.W. Leader, 41 Warwick Gardens, London, and Mrs G.H. Malingot, Sugar House, Tobago, and Louisa, younger daughter of Sir Andrew Forbes-Leith, Bt, and the late Jane Kate Forbes-Leith, of Fyvie, Aberdeenshire.

Mr A. Lees and Miss A. Fowler
The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr R.P. Martin, of Bath, and Mrs Joan Martin, of The Barbican, London, and Avery, daughter of Mrs N.M. Oates, of Singapore.

Mr A.M. Martin and Miss A.G. Oates
The engagement is announced between Adam, eldest son of Mr R.P. Martin, of Bath, and Mrs Joan Martin, of The Barbican, London, and Avery, daughter of Mrs N.M. Oates, of Singapore.

Mr A.P.G. Wakely and Miss S.E. Marsham
The engagement is announced between Andrew Philip Grant, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Wakely, of Whitechurch, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Sophie Elizabeth, daughter of Major and Mrs Leslie Marsham, of the Royal Mews, Buckingham Palace.

REAR ADMIRAL DUDLEY DAVENPORT

Rear Admiral Dudley Leslie Davenport, former captain of the aircraft carrier *Victorious*, and later *Flag Officer Malta*, died on December 27, aged 71. He was born on August 17, 1919.

DUDLEY Davenport's long and distinguished naval career was nearly terminated a few years after it began when the destroyer *Blanche* in which he was serving as a sub lieutenant struck a magnetic mine off Margate shortly after the outbreak of the second world war. He owed his life to the toss of a coin.

The mines had been sown along the Thames estuary the previous night by a flotilla of German destroyers operating under the cover of thick fog. As the unsuspecting British warship, escorted a battle cruiser through the Channel, neared the German minefield early next day, the young Davenport tossed a half-crown piece with his fellow officer on the nightwatch to decide which of them would go below first for an early bath.

He won. The other officer died in the explosion which followed minutes later. Davenport, though knocked unconscious by the blast, survived with a hairline fracture of the skull — and a memorable headline in the *Daily Mirror*: "Bloody officer found in bath." Then aged 20 he was already known to the navy as the son of Vice-Admiral R.C. Davenport, who had been brought back from retirement for convoy duties in the trans-Atlantic sea lanes.

When news of the sinking of the *Blanche* came through, a thoughtful officer in the Admiralty sent a signal to the vice-admiral's convoy which was then in the Western Approaches to assure him that his son had survived the disaster. But young Dudley had already won some distinction on his own. Not long after leaving Dartmouth where he was a member of the Hawke term, he was mentioned in despatches when only a midshipman while on security duties off the coast of Palestine.

The sinking of the *Blanche*

was, moreover, a dramatic start to what was to be for him an eventful war. After recovering from his injuries he was back at sea in February 1940, this time in the Tribal class destroyer *Mashona*, taking part in the Norwegian campaign and then in the following year in the hunt for the *Bismarck*. While returning from this operation, he escaped with his life for the second time. The Luftwaffe bombed the *Mashona* 100 miles to the west of Ireland. More than 40 sailors lost their lives, but Davenport was among the lucky ones to be plucked from the sea by the destroyer's sister ship, the *Somali*. The young officer who hailed him from the sea was Ludovic Kennedy.

After five years of almost continuous action Dudley Davenport was rewarded in 1945 with the command of his own destroyer, the *Holmes*, followed by another destroyer *RMS Porlock Bay*. Like others of his generation who served throughout the war Dudley Davenport learned much from his early experience as a young officer. He took the navy's own staff course in this country, commanded the naval barracks at Chatham and between 1958-60 served on the staff of the Admiral commanding reserves. He did two years in command of the inshore flotilla in the Far East and in 1962 was made director of officer appointments (seaman's branch).

He went to sea again in command of the *Victorious* 1964-7, during which he was known as a caring and compassionate commander and then, in 1967-9, was made Flag Officer Malta — his final appointment. His responsibilities included preparing for the rundown of Britain's naval presence in the Mediterranean. After leaving the navy, he moved into the private industry and worked as a personnel director before finally retiring at the age of 60.

He is survived by his widow, Joan, herself the daughter of a surgeon commander in the Royal Navy, and by two sons.



Church news

Appointments
The Rev Patricia Rogers, Honorary Curate, Gayton, Gayton Thorpe, Walton, East to be Rector, Ashwick, diocese of Exeter, and Bawsey, diocese of Norwich; to be Honorary Curate, Rackheath and Salhouse, same diocese.

Rev David S. Shrusouer, formerly incumbent, Epiphany church, Solapur, diocese of Kolhapur, North India; to be Priest-in-charge, Sinfu Moor Local Ecumenical Project, diocese of Derby.

The Rev Martin D. Smith, Assistant Curate, St Giles-in-Reading, diocese of Oxford; to be Rector, Colkirk with Oakwick and Patesley, Whitsonsett, Horningoft and Brisley, diocese of Norwich.

The Rev Brian Stannard, Assistant Curate, St Margaret's, Burnage, diocese of Manchester; to be Vicar, Christ Church, Walmersley, same diocese.

The Rev Terence Thake, Team Rector, Chell team, diocese of Lichfield; to be also Rural Dean of Stoke North, same diocese.

The Rev Ian Walter, Vicar, St Philip's, Bolton, diocese of Manchester; to be Vicar, All Saints, Elton, same diocese.

The Rev Patricia A. Wick, Parish Deacon, Bolton, St Luke's, diocese of Manchester; to be Parish Deacon to the Diocese team, with special responsibility for the Victoria Dock Project, diocese of York.

The Rev Peter J. Wilson, currently working in the Anglican Hospital Chaplaincy of the New Grosche Schuur Hospital, Observatory, Cape Town, South Africa; to be Assistant Curate, Newton Aycliffe team, diocese of Durham.

Marriage
Mr P.A. de Vere Hunt and Miss J. Adams. The marriage took place on Friday, December 21, 1990, at Chelsea Registry Office, of Mr Peter Alfred de Vere Hunt and Miss Julie Adams, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E.M. Adams, of Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside.

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The Times prize new year jumbo

Test your word power in our holiday competition

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday January 14, 1991. Entries should be sent to The Times New Year Jumbo Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. Winners and solution will be published on Saturday January 19.

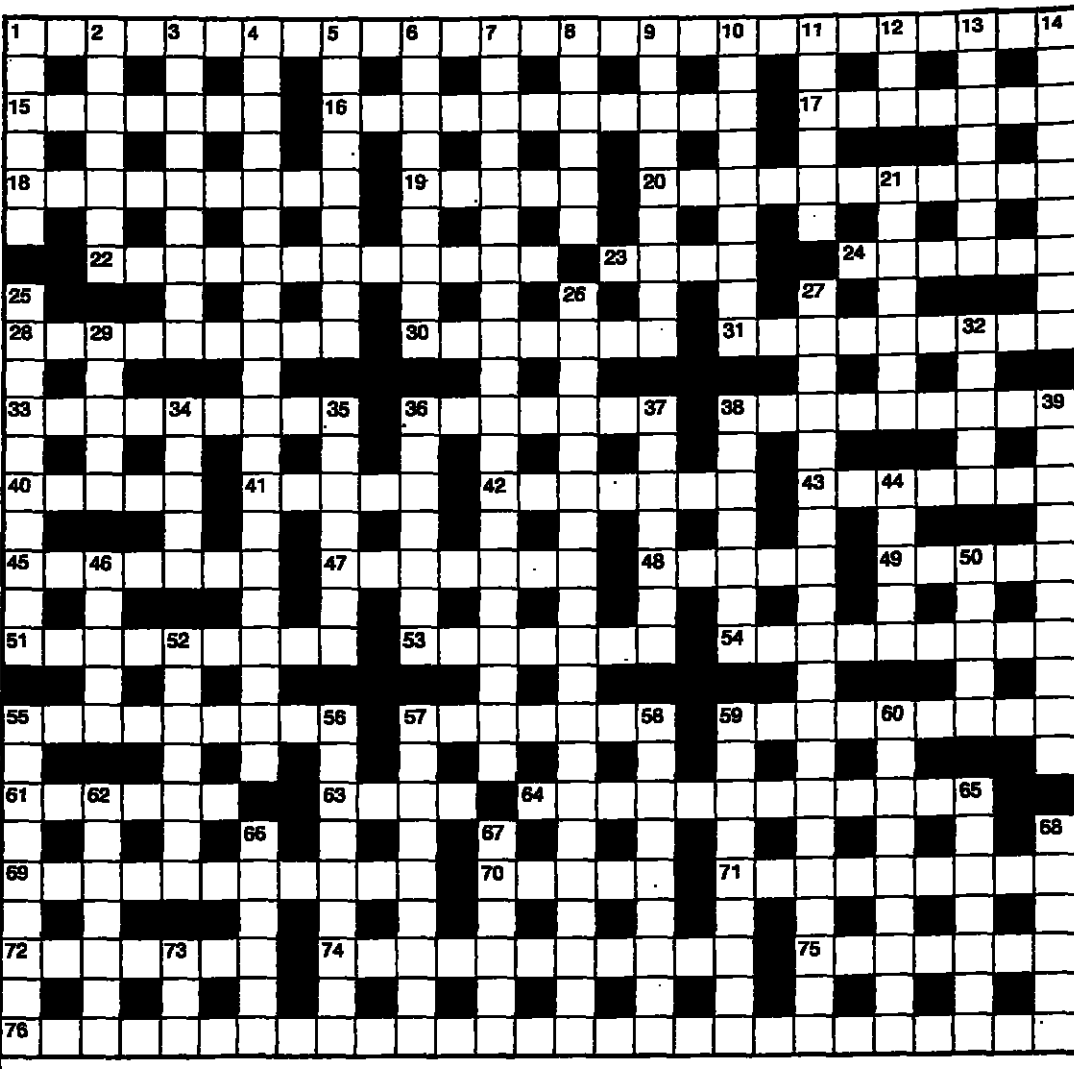
There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear tomorrow

ACROSS

- 1 Raleigh's instruction to one turning over a new leaf - there! (3,4,2,4,4,3,5,2)
- 15 Flavour preserved, mostly, in Clydeside town (7)
- 16 Galactic ore turns out to be positive (11)
- 17 Cheer this organ section! (7)
- 18 Missed degree, we hear, playing a variety of poker (9)
- 19 Where to find water-hole in the existing state of affairs? (5)
- 20 He studies China, for example, to improve relations with it (11)
- 22 Tale about one man's ruin - that was Jude's business (12)
- 23 Copper-salt turnover in the West Indies (4)
- 24 Brave to take the pledge! (6)
- 28 Depend on a suit pie? Hardly! (9)
- 30 Emergency telephone-link in hotel is unusual (3,4)
- 31 Making good and working in harmony, workers start to thrive (9)
- 33 Evening service from Worcester, possibly (6-3)
- 36 Forward, the replacement for Daniel, say (7)
- 38 Dictionary definition of the South American aurochs? (9)
- 40 Party longing for a respected senior member (5)
- 41 Composer's "Unfinished" we hear in this bit of Belgium (5)
- 42 Is this military trainer's work boring? (7)
- 43 Acrobat polished on the bar? (7)
- 45 National side on the ball in America (7)
- 47 In sin bin, Rex and Bobby! (7)
- 48 The wine store has to move house (5)
- 49 Direction in which no players are silent (5)
- 51 Jellyfish harmless if grasped boldly? (3-6)
- 53 Aromatic substance kept in archaic amphorae (7)
- 54 Standard of the French rifle ammo has gone off (9)
- 55 Presumptuous, for sure (9)
- 57 Nuts in hand? (7)
- 59 Forecaster who declined the Apollo proposal? (9)
- 61 A lager can turn to malt vinegar (6)
- 63 Star part chosen by Bassanio (4)
- 64 Person interested in the striker's case? (12)
- 69 Does it produce a being-in-stitches sensation in the theatre? (8-3)
- 70 Where, in film-studio, do they stage an attack? (5)
- 71 Delivery section? (9)
- 72 Capital needed for oil change after journey (7)
- 74 Maraschino cocktail, about noon, is an old-fashioned thing (11)
- 75 How like the hedgehog, to take a turn round Kent! (7)
- 76 In the inn, anyone under ten ended in a heap this year (8,7,3,6-3)

DOWN

- 1 Palma's variety of green quartz (6)
- 2 Drives through American streets (7)
- 3 Useless to instruct one to keep off the grass! (9)
- 4 Absolute essentials of anything in the arboretum (3,8,2,3,4)
- 5 What must done for, say, screen-set (9)
- 6 Old style loyalty protecting Biblical King from Eastern barbarian (9)
- 7 Testing motorcar in due fashion, log-book needed (12,8)
- 8 Movement of fools, would you say, towards the interior? (6)
- 9 It can accompany something penned in the paddock (9)
- 10 Invalid, one on a par with a woman who has never borne a child (9)
- 11 Supporter of firm in transport (6)
- 12 No black horse in Bowness to have as property (3)
- 13 Junior white-collar worker in a row sometimes? (7)
- 14 Care for some medicine? (9)
- 21 Exotic walk of an unconvincing lawyer (7)
- 25 Quality of some photographs taken secretly? (10)
- 26 Pen-portrait of Maxim, you could say (8,4,3,5)
- 27 His history of split personality troubles Inverness, too, in a way (6,5,9)
- 29 The ends of the speedway are gritted (5)
- 32 Take on distressed loner (5)
- 34 Bit of a rotten nuisance, the doldrums! (5)
- 35 Chabrier's garden composition (3-4)
- 36 Appeasing, in the main (7)
- 37 Rail that crosses road? (4-3)
- 38 Spanish bull not loose in city (7)
- 39 He maintains he has been called up (10)
- 44 Tin, say, can provide sort of square meal outside (5)
- 46 Suspicion of showers after midnight (5)
- 50 I would follow young Timothy Shy (5)
- 52 Last letters of mine in untidy heap (7)
- 55 Fake daily reverses place of birth (9)
- 56 Forerunner of the phone, also tapped (9)
- 57 Ship's officer taking cereal to Western Australia in container (9)
- 58 Turin also developed this very early European culture (9)
- 59 Clergyman produces chapters about the old city on a retainer (9)
- 60 Stubbs, for example, reveals soul with catalogue (9)
- 62 Act of evading hallucination when losing head (7)
- 65 Old master has to draw game (7)
- 66 Roughly-veined, curly-leaved plant (6)
- 67 Old woman to bear, protect and pamper baby? (6)
- 68 Sound of Air Force heard passing through openings under bridge (6)
- 73 It helps, much of the time (3)



Name _____
Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 2370 (yesterday's concise crossword answers)

- ACROSS: 1 Purify 4 Pluto 8 On the contrary 9 Politic 10 Peke 11 How 13 Eden 14 Ha-ha 17 Gut 20 Hive 22 Rustler 24 Under-employed 25 Heavy 26 Cringe
DOWN: 1 Prompt 2 Rattled 3 Fretting 4 Path 5 Usage 6 Oxygen 7 Conch 12 Whistler 15 Halcyon 16 Though 18 Tramp 19 Trudge 21 Vodka 23 Fray

ACROSS

- 1 US Civil War soldiers' song (4,6,5,8,4)
- 15 Continue (5,2)
- 16 Ultimate proof doubt (11)
- 17 Fierce storm (7)
- 18 Ballet "scissors" leap (9)
- 19 Very angry (5)
- 20 Rubaiyat poet (4,7)
- 22 Takeaway shopping (4-3-5)
- 23 Filth (4)
- 24 Covered up (6)
- 28 Quick Japanese dishes (9)
- 30 Vague (7)
- 31 Special delight (4,5)
- 33 Needing exertion (9)
- 36 Painter's studio (7)
- 38 Wire sheets holder (9)
- 40 Earth (5)
- 41 D-Day US east beach (5)
- 42 Lashed (7)
- 43 Boiled rice dish (7)
- 45 Books checker (7)
- 47 Remove gun from setting (7)
- 48 Hooked claw (5)
- 49 Terrible (5)
- 51 Give in (9)
- 53 Astonish (7)
- 54 Anguish (9)
- 55 Deadline (4,5)
- 57 Turns into (7)
- 59 Hearthglow (9)
- 61 Unfair (6)
- 63 Pretensions (4)
- 64 Harsh brilliance (7,5)
- 69 Rigid packing foam (11)
- 70 Spiked flower (5)
- 71 Deceased in worth (4,5)
- 72 Folklore small men (7)
- 74 Ails (5,6)
- 75 Mark Antony's wife (7)
- 76 Laudatory hymn (6,2,4,3,4,2,6)

DOWN

- 1 Evil (6)
- 2 Inconsistent (7)
- 3 Without pleasure (9)
- 4 Quasimodo (9,2,5,4)
- 5 First/last phase seas (4,5)
- 6 Own kind eaters (9)
- 7 Inequitable result (11,2,7)
- 8 Evening party (6)
- 9 Ill will (9)
- 10 Compressor (9)
- 11 Regular admission (6)
- 12 Chewing chicle (3)
- 13 Monocular (3-4)
- 14 Small French café (9)
- 21 Flier (7)
- 25 Fundamentals (10)
- 26 Garter Order motto (4,4,3,3,1,5)
- 27 Getting reading for rocket launch (9,3,3-3)
- 29 "Black African" (5)
- 32 Acclaim (5)
- 34 Respond (5)
- 35 Hero's lover (7)
- 36 Pallid complexion (7)
- 37 Corrected (7)
- 38 Canoe oars (7)
- 39 Wildly extravagant (10)
- 44 Surplus (5)
- 46 Pasta wheat (5)
- 50 Spree (5)
- 52 Joins up (7)
- 55 Phoney (7,2)
- 56 Exchanges (5,4)
- 57 Underwriter's risk list (9)
- 58 Tanzania national park (9)
- 59 Last effort (5,4)
- 60 Lively French dance (2,7)
- 62 Hooded Arab cloak (7)
- 65 Largest Israel city (3,4)
- 66 Plaster of Paris mineral (6)
- 67 Small cupboard (6)
- 68 Stay (6)
- 73 Body fluid tube (3)

Layering odds on a sure way to shine

In the wake of new year resolutions - and a certain dissatisfaction with the image in the mirror, following days of over-indulgence - comes the desire for an immediate new look. Unfortunately, this is the wrong month for such a whim; there will be little to inspire in the fashion departments until the January sales have made space.

There is one sure way, however, to update or even transform an image overnight, and that is to book in with a hairdresser on the cutting edge of fashion. Even more than totting the right sartorial silhouette, sporting a spot-on coiffure is the best cure for dowdiness and depression. It does not have to be a painful experience, given the range of perfectly proper fashion options for the chic head of 1991.

For one thing, long hair is unusually to the fore; the house models and muses have been taking to the catwalks in beehives

Anthea Gerrie finds out what the best-dressed heads are wearing for the new year

and other tall hairdos of Marie Antoinette proportions. If you do not want to cut, you can get away today with putting up the ends and back-combing the top to giddy heights.

Braver souls will opt for the scissors, however, for like jacket lengths, cutting techniques change subtly from season to season; a good reason to seek out the stylist who attends hair fashion seminars, rather than the lazy practitioner who traps his clients in a perpetual time-war of coiffure.

This year, smart snippers are focusing on layering; a technique some among them mastered during their basic training in the Sixties.

"The high hair on the catwalks is sending out strong messages of an early Sixties revival," says Trevor Sorbie, the nearest thing British hairdressers have had to a guru since Vidal Sassoon left for Hollywood. He is just old enough to remember back-combing his first beehives as a teenager working in his father's shampoo-and-set parlour.

"We are creating heavy, layered cuts reminiscent of the old Sassoon look; the Urchin and the Greek Goddess are both coming

back." Surprisingly, however, he reports there is more dressing than cutting going on in his own Covent Garden salon.

"Long hair that's styled - put up in elaborate ways - feels very right for now. Today's juniors have not been much exposed to long hair during their apprenticeship, which is a weakness of modern training, but ours are growing their own and learning fast. My own favourite styling tool these days is heated rollers."

John Frieda, the Mayfair hairdresser who was master of the structured coiffure in the Eighties, sees hair becoming soft and tousled, framing the face while bouncing high on the crown. He says the right tools and products are the keys to achieving a style which may take its inspiration from the Sixties, but emerges as a definite look for the Nineties.

Everything happens in the last five minutes before hair is dry, Frieda says. "With the new layered cuts you blow your hair almost dry, then apply a spray-on styling lotion to the roots and lift sections of the hair all over the crown on to jumbo rollers. Blast with the blow-dryer, then secure the root with a clip while you dress and make-up. After removing the rollers you don't brush out the hair, simply separate the curls loosely. The hair must have height, but still look natural."

There is a definite Sixties inspiration behind the versatile new look from star cutter Nicky Clarke, who has created a style reminiscent of the bobs of the Julie Christie era: "It has an Irma Douce cheekiness about the short back and lots of heavy fringing and longer bits falling around the face."

In many regards, he asserts, it is pure Nineties: "Completely different from the strong structured styles of the Eighties, it is spontaneous and intended to lie however it wants to go, not be brushed into place and sprayed to stay put. It uses modern products like wax to give texture, rather than mousse to build body at the roots; body is no longer the point."

At the salon of court coiffeur Neville Daniel, stylist John Barrett sees more of a late Fifties than an early Sixties revival, a look that conjures images of Gina Lollobrigida and vintage Elizabeth



Above: high hair by Nicky Clarke, short at the back and layered for texture

Taylor. "Short, shiny and layered are the key words," he says. "After layering all over the head, it will be necessary to apply a strong setting lotion to create movement, and probably a vegetable colour to add shine, condition and depth to the hair - which should preferably be dark all over."

A dose of rich conditioning colour is certainly a highly appropriate way of restoring shine and depth of tone to hair dried and dulled by wind and winter - and it can bring an instant new look to those who are not ready for radical re-styling.

The basic choice lies between a few well-chosen highlights around the hairline - an anti-ageing procedure that can be more effective than a facelift - and going deeper or warmer to enrich all-over tone. Fifties and Sixties-style tinting involved applying heavy block colour all over the head, a technique Sorbie believes is



Left: bouncy cut for healthy-looking hair, by the London stylist John Frieda

shade are usually the best starting point." For 1991 he sees shades of extraordinary richness, ranging from Inca gold to burnished copper, warm spice to baroque bronze - and a very high degree of shine, made possible by technical advances in easy-to-apply vegetable dyes which can be custom-mixed for the wearer and packaged to take home for topping up colour between salon visits.

Acknowledging the high level of investment in time and money that salon colouring commands today, his point of view is hard to reject. "Women who spend hundreds on a new dress often remain blind to the power of hair colour to enhance their skin tone and bring out their eyes," Calvin says. "But ignoring the importance of the right shade is sheer folly; hair is the only accessory you wear 24 hours a day, and the one that commands by far the most attention."

returning, and which the Lollobrigida/burning-brunette look seems to demand.

Colour authority Daniel Galvin, however, intends to fight any retrograde movement into the bad old days, before the concept of creating movement in hair by weaving in several different shades was invented.

"Hair dyed the same shade at

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THEATRE

Whether 'tis nobler, or not

On examining the New Year's Honours list, Benedict Nightingale finds evidence that the theatre remains under-represented

About time, too. After all, Gielgud, Richardson, Guinness got their knighthoods while they were in their forties, and Olivier when he was a mere 39. Until yesterday, when the 51-year-old Ian McKellen at last received the same award, it was beginning to look as if their successors were being deliberately snubbed. Even now, his belated promotion serves largely to expose a continuing disregard of other formidable candidates for theatrical honours. It is as if someone up there thinks the post-Larry, post-Ralph generation of actors is made of commoner fibre.

But nostalgia for the past should surely not blind us to the successes of the present. British dominance of the English-speaking theatre has never been greater. This may be explained in many ways, from the strength of our national companies to the weakness of Broadway. But it could never have happened without performers of the calibre of the 65-year-old Alec McCowen, the 60-year-old John Wood and the 52-year-old Derek Jacobi, as well as McKellen. Yet the more internationally respected our theatre has become, the less national recognition our players seem to have received.

Perhaps it does not matter very much. Paul Scofield is generally assumed to have turned down a knighthood, and others, too, may be afraid of becoming isolated on some remote official plinth. It would, for instance, be as hard to imagine a Dame Vanessa Redgrave as a Dame Rosa Luxemburg or a Lord Trotsky — or as a John Gielgud, Hero of Socialist Labour. Yet, in the theatre, are our quaint, courtly titles so different in the purpose they serve from those which the most diehard leftist would presumably approve?

English-Arthurian or Soviet-Homeric, they are still simultaneously a reward, a seal of approval and an encouragement to others. They publicly declare, not merely that a standard of excellence has been attained by one individual and set for everybody else, but that the community as a whole places a high value on the theatre. For us British, they proclaim that the Irvings, Oliviers and McKellens are as much a part of our island history as the Gladstones and Wilsons; that they belong to a tradition it is important to perpetuate. In bald financial terms, the more knights there are, the harder it is for a government to treat the theatre ungenerously. Even the Workers' Revolutionary Party might like that.

But recently the trouble has been less theatre people refusing

honours, more the powers-that-be withholding them. Add McKellen to the venerable Gielgud, Guinness, Hordern, Ustinov and Mills, throw in the director Peter Hall, and the list of theatrical knights is complete. Their female counterparts have a slightly fresher look. Judi Dench and Maggie Smith have joined Peggy Ashcroft and Wendy Hiller as Dames of the British Empire, and are each a few years short of drawing their old age pensions. But as pantheons go, that is hardly very crowded. Our theatrical Olympus still has a depopulated look, and surely needs further replenishment.

But who should follow? McKellen up the slopes? There are plenty of contenders, starting with one whose claim is as strong but more seriously overdue. In 1990 alone, Alec McCowen reminded the world of his range by relearning St Mark's Gospel and taking it from Britain to America, then returning home to play first a grumpy academic in an adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's *A Single Man*, then a serenely batty priest in Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*. But nobody who has seen him as the angry Alceste in Molière's *Misanthrope* and the benign Philip in Christopher Hampton's *Philanthropist*, a sad schoolmaster in *The Browning Version* and an unrepentant Hitler in *The Portage to San Cristobal de A.H.*, could doubt either his emotional versatility or his technical finesse.

Then there is Jacobi, so inventive and energetic as Sartre's *Kean* in 1990, and John Wood, recently a majestic Solness in Ibsen's *Master Builder* and a wonderfully volatile, unpredictable King Lear. If distinguished work on the classical stage counts for much, as it has since Irving, these two would seem hardly less deserving of a handle than McKellen. Has there been a wittier Benedict than Jacobi's or a more complex Brutus than Wood's?

Michael Gambon, 50 years old but a late starter, probably needs more time to establish his classical credentials, as does Antony Sher, not to mention Kenneth Branagh. Sir Albert Finney has a solid, aldermanic ring, though. And should not year after year of skilful, unshowy service at the National earn the 62-year-old Michael Bryant more recognition than he has yet received? Should Donald Sinden, once a marvellous Malvolio and a fascinating Lear, be denied a knighthood just because *Private Eye* has decided him for wanting one? The honour might even persuade him to re-



To consider: Diana Rigg and Alec McCowen, in *The Misanthrope* at the National Theatre, 1973

nounce rubbishy farces, such as the current *Out of Order*, for the serious theatre.

There are many other names worth considering, female as well as male. Vanessa Redgrave, probably the greatest living actress, may prefer to resist the blandishments of the establishment — but what of Dorothy Tutin or, despite her possible transformation into an MP, Glenda Jackson? Or Beckett's favourite actress, Billie Whitelaw, or the underrated Barbara Jefford, or Irene Worth, American born but still a holder of the CBE? The patronage secretary at 10 Downing Street, the key figure in these arcane affairs, should also be keeping an eye on Janet Suzman, Diana Rigg, Susan Fleetwood, among others.

Nor should he be thinking of performers only. Presumably Peter Brook, like Scofield, prefers to remain a mister. Nothing else can justify the neglect of the greatest British director since — well, at least since Sir Tyrone Guthrie. But how many companies must Trevor Nunn successfully run, how many more hyper-hits must he stage, before he gets the summons to the Palace? And why has no contemporary playwright been called to follow Pinero

and Henry Arthur Jones, Barrie, Coward and Ratignau?

This is particularly odd, given the renaissance of British drama that began with Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* in 1956. Harold Pinter's radical politics might prevent him accepting the official imprimatur of the originality of his work has earned; but that is no reason why it should not be offered. It is encouraging that McKellen can crusade very publicly against Clause 28 and for homosexual rights, and still be given a knighthood. Clearly, something has changed since the day when it could be seriously claimed that Richardson got his title before the divorced Olivier and the bachelor Gielgud because he was a respectable married man.

In any case, there is nothing particularly controversial about our other leading dramatists: Alan

Ayckbourn, who has written 38 plays and created a fine rep in Scarborough; that mandarin wit, Tom Stoppard; or, for that matter, Osborne himself. His output may have declined in quality and quantity, but nobody can dispute either the excellence of much of his earlier work or his historical importance. Stoppard himself has said he would never have turned to the theatre but for the excitement generated by *Look Back in Anger*. The same is indirectly true of many other dramatists.

That is exactly the kind of accomplishment knighthoods exist to reward. If X or Y did not exist, would the theatre be significantly weaker, would the quality of our national life be poorer? Imagine Osborne and Pinter had never been born. Imagine a Britain without Jacobi or Nunn. The case is made.

RECORDS: CLASSICAL

At last, ringing in some of the new

NEW music enjoys a healthy informal dissemination in cassette form among composers, and of course the BBC still provides, if less comprehensively and challengingly than 20 years ago, a service to the rest of us. It is important that these avenues stay open, but it is important, too, that contemporary music be properly represented on record, since not only is the compact disc the main means of musical communication, but records in shops can reach a different audience from that for Radio 3. The CD is also a mixed-media art form in its own right, giving the composer, in the case of contemporary music, a chance to speak through words, pictures and choice of programme as well as directly through the music itself.

Just a few years ago the amount of new British music available on record was distressingly small, now, quite suddenly, the case is very different, thanks partly to the enthusiasm of several smaller companies, but thanks also to a few enlightened moves from the giants. Within the past year alone, EMI has released the first record of Robert Saxton's music, following up its useful Dominic Muldowney album, while Virgin has put Trevor Wishart's Vox cycle of vocal-electronic music on disc.

Meanwhile Unicorn-Kanchana is continuing its commendable attention to Peter Maxwell Davies, re-releasing on CD the two big pieces of chamber music he wrote for the Fires of London: *Ave Maris Stella* and *Image, Reflection, Shadow* (UKCD 2038), and issuing for the first time his chamber opera, *The Martyrdom of St Magnus* (DKP(CD) 9100). This is sung by the soloists of the excellent Music Theatre Wales production, conducted by Michael Rafferty, and the team's theatrical experience shows: the performance is vivid and thrilling.

Yet more Davies can be had on a Collins Classics record (10952) devoted to the scores he wrote in 1971 for the Ken Russell films *The Devils* and *The Boyfriend*, with the welcome addition of a 1960s classic, the *Seven In Nomine*. The *Boyfriend* music is a high-spirited, not to say frenzied, bash at Sandy Wilson's bash at the popular music of the 1930s: an achievement as exultantly camp as Russell's film. Nor are the short movements from *The Devils* as subtle in their treatment of heresy and hysteria as Davies's larger works of this period — or even

such smaller ones as the septet of arrangements and new contributions to the curious English tradition of instrumental fantasias on the "In Nomine" from Taverner's Trinity mass (teasingly the insert leaflet leaves one to find out for oneself which movements are original Davies). The performances, by Aquarius under Nicholas Cleobury, are sound.

This brings the number of Davies CDs firmly into double figures, and one could wish for similar exposure of other composers, especially Harrison Birtwistle. His monumental *...agm...* has recently been reissued (Erato/Warner 2292 45410-2), but much else remains to be done.

THE signs, though, are positive, the year ending with the first records devoted to Michael Finnissy and Simon Bainbridge. In both cases the choice of works is apt. Finnissy himself plays his *English Country-Tunes* (Ecetera KTC 1091), a set of eight pieces better regarded as a continuous work lasting for more than 50 minutes. The finely tuned violence and virtuosity of the music, and of the performance, come across powerfully, but so too does the quiet, luminous and yet equally compelled music that intervenes. This is a turbulent, ranging, dissatisfied and, at times, intensely sensual treatment of folksongs, but affection and respect can breed those qualities: one begins to understand why Percy Grainger is so important to Finnissy.

The Bainbridge disc (Continuum CCD 1020) rescues Walter Trampler's recording of the marvellous haunting *Viola Concerto* he wrote in his early twenties and adds the orchestral *Fantasia* which, for all its greater panache, is similar in its superb fashioning of sound and the imaginative journeying it embodies. The *Concertante in moto perpetuo*, a gambol as much against as on the sunlit beach of American-style minimalism, is a witty and beautiful encore, brilliantly played by Nicholas Daniel and conducted, as is the *Fantasia*, by the composer.

Of course there should be more: more CD releases of Weir, more of Fernyeough, some Casken, as well as more Birtwistle. But at least the record shop shelves are beginning to reflect the present strength and variety of British composition.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

TELEVISION

Once is never enough

During the current festive season some readers may be experiencing disturbing symptoms. Their past life may seem to be flashing before their eyes. In the vast majority of cases this implies not impending death but the onset of another batch of television repeats.

However, some have recently argued that death and repeats are not entirely separate. In response to a study of the tendency for the suicide rate to rise during the festive season, a spokesman for the Samaritans, Paul Farmer, claimed that repeats and reviews of the year should take some of the blame. Under their retrospective pressure, he said, people are made to contemplate the past and face up to their failures.

The link between repeats and suicide remains unproved, to put it mildly. Just one objection, using the same survey's own figures, would be that the suicide rate is low during the summer, when most repeats are actually broadcast. Nevertheless, it is a recurring phenomenon that the most common subjects of complaint by television viewers are not, as some pressure groups might lead one to believe, sex, violence or political bias but bad language and repeats. This itself is something of a mystery since, in the words of Rosemary Newall of the BBC research department, "People may complain about them but they are happy enough to watch them. You could repeat shows like *Only Fools and Horses*, *Birds of a Feather*, and *Blackadder* till the cows come home and they'll still get audiences of over ten million."

Repeats may once have seemed symptomatic of television planners' disdain for their audience, but they are now a part of its medium's culture, even its creativity. The double-showing of *Neighbours* every weekday at lunchtime and a test-time is regarded as a masterstroke of scheduling. If the vast audiences accorded to it in *EastEnders* (and to *Coronation Street* and others) are viewed sceptically, this is only because it is suspected that many people watch the broadcasts twice. Double showings during the week are now routine for programmes such as *The Trials of Life* or *Twin Peaks* and there is no evidence that viewers switch off. Clive James's *Saturday Night Clive*

Repeats of television programmes may be among the most important aspects of broadcasting, or so argues Sean French



Not an immediate success: Monty Python's Terry Jones

regularly achieves a higher rating when repeated on a weekday.

Some repeats tinker with the form of the original programme. Michael Frayn's Emmy-winning film, *First and Last*, was re-screened at Christmas in two parts. The impact of the comedy drama *Auf Wiedersehen Pet* was coarsened when the original hour-long programme was sliced to fit a half-hour slot. By contrast, Troy Kennedy Martin's nuclear thriller, *Edge of Darkness*, gained when its six episodes were re-edited into three two-hour films.

But these are technicalities. A more interesting argument would be that there are too few repeats on television. After 40-odd years of broadcasting, the British companies have an archive of which the surface has barely been scratched. One obvious possibility is the entertaining sort of programme like *1001 Nights of TV*, which is being broadcast on Channel 4 today. This will include items such as dogs on television, trailers, early appearances by the now famous, and the first episodes of programmes such as *Z-Cars* (the tape of which, incidentally,

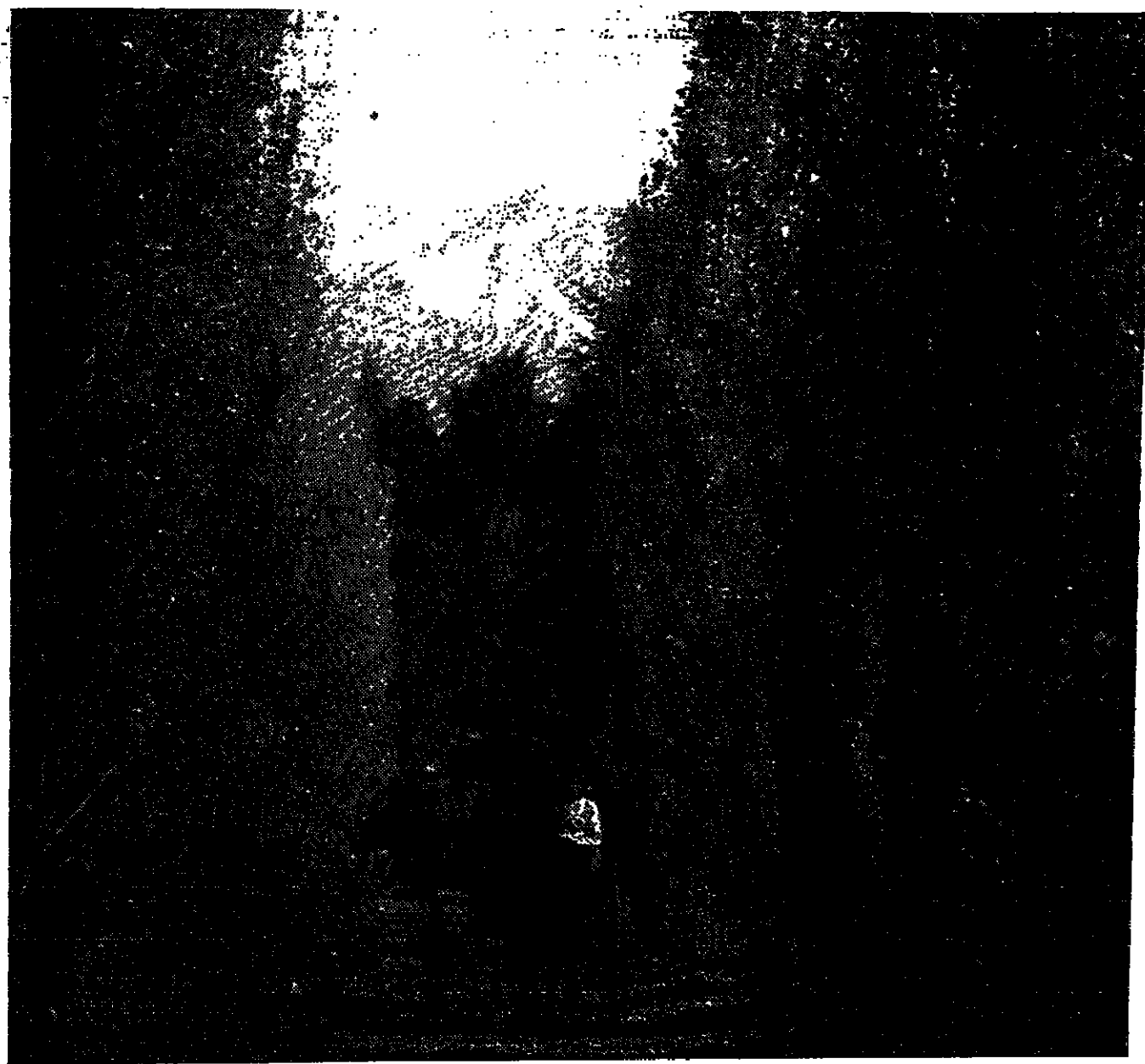
was found not at BBC Television Centre but on an army base in Cyprus, which presumably is what saved it from being wiped).

The Samaritans' objection to repeats is based on the notion that the effect of a broadcast item remains the same when it is repeated. In reality, the archives are simply raw material that can be manipulated and ordered like anything else. Meanings change. Many programmes, or even whole series, appeared to little effect at first and only reached their full impact when they were repeated. *Star Trek*, notoriously, was axed at the end of its second series. Repeats and worldwide sales turned it into a phenomenon. Similarly, *Monty Python's Flying Circus* first went out almost unnoticed.

A repeat can also be an act of irony. Even the potter's wheel is now camp. You can buy it on video. The whimperings of Andy Pandy and the burblings of *The Flowerpot Men*, despised by most children when first broadcast, have been a substantial moneyspinner for BBC Enterprises when sold on video. Even obscenity mellowed over the years. When the Sex Pistols swore at Bill Grundy on television in 1976 it seemed scandalous. Now it is just quaint social history, and Grundy's pyrrhic response, "You're even drunker than I am", is a treasured quotation.

Television is a permanent part of our collective memories. Earlier cultures may have had similar shared experiences. But we are not restricted to reminiscing about the time that the baby elephant went wild in the *Blue Peter* studio; we can watch the tape again.

Those of us between the ages of 20 and 40 may be the only generation for which this is precisely true. Because of the restrictions of technology, we saw mostly the same programmes at the same time. Together, we saw Angela Rippon's earring fall off during a live news broadcast. Now the process of television has fragmented for good. Video recorders and a proliferation of channels have given control back to viewers. The next logical step must be greater access to television's archives, which is really access to our own past. These are memories, not repeats.



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SPORT

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Liverpool relish challenge from revitalised Leeds

By IAN ROSS

LIVERPOOL, whose aura of invincibility has begun to dissolve recently, could surrender the leadership of football's first division today. Events at Selhurst Park, where Crystal Palace defeated the defending champions 1-0 on Sunday, did little to undermine Liverpool's belief that they will win the title for a twelfth time in 18 years, but they did add a measure of uncertainty to a championship which has, in recent years, become something of a formality.

At Anfield today, Liverpool will contest League points with Leeds United for the first time since 1982. The meeting was always likely to be interesting, but few outside West Yorkshire believed it would also be important.

After winning the second division championship last season, Leeds, under the astute management of Howard

Top of first division

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Liverpool | 19 | 14 | 3 | 2 | 38 | 16 | 45 |
| Arsenal | 20 | 13 | 3 | 4 | 40 | 20 | 44 |
| Manchester United | 20 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 31 | 18 | 40 |
| Leeds | 20 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 28 | 18 | 38 |
| Tottenham | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 33 | 22 | 38 |
| Sheff Wed | 20 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 28 | 22 | 35 |
| Sheff Utd | 20 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 22 | 33 |
| Nottingham | 20 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 26 | 22 | 30 |
| Derby | 20 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 22 | 27 |
| QPR | 20 | 6 | 6 | 8 | 26 | 22 | 24 |
| Sheff Sat | 20 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 26 | 22 | 21 |
| Wolves | 20 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 26 | 22 | 18 |
| Millwall | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 26 | 22 | 15 |
| Sheff Albion | 20 | 2 | 6 | 12 | 26 | 22 | 10 |
| Blackburn | 20 | 1 | 6 | 13 | 26 | 22 | 8 |
| Sheff Thro | 20 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 26 | 22 | 6 |

Wilkinson, have set about the task of building a future to lay alongside an illustrious past with relish and quite unexpected fortitude.

A ten-week unbeaten run of 14 matches which has yielded 26 points from a possible 33, has moved Leeds into fourth place, just six points behind Liverpool. If Leeds were to become the first team to win at Anfield since November 1989, Arsenal could move into pole position on goal difference with a draw against Manchester City at Maine Road.

Liverpool's defeat on Sunday prompted fresh discussion about the wisdom of Kenny

Dalglish's team selection for fixtures away from home. Dalglish was not only unrepentant but defiant yesterday. "I know why decisions are made. I know where my heart lies and I know where my priorities lie," he said. "It does not upset me if I am criticised. It just upsets me that the club did not get the result we wanted and that the players did not get what they deserved."

Although Dalglish did not dismiss out of hand the latest challenge to Liverpool's authority, he did stress that the situation was not altogether unfamiliar. "There have been a lot of challenges to us in the last 25 years, but the most important thing is that Liverpool have always been there or thereabouts," he said. "When there is adversity here, we close ranks and get behind each other."

Wilkinson, who only last month insisted that Leeds would not win the championship, said that he does not regard today's game as the acid test of his side's capabilities. "One result, whichever way it goes, can be very misleading," he said.

"I set off this season with a view to us finishing in the top ten. I thought that would be a respectable achievement. We have made a lot of progress, but we still have much to do. At their best, Liverpool can give you a clue as to what it is like to play in the World Cup against a good team," he added.

With Sterland having recovered from a knee injury, Leeds expect to be unchanged, but Liverpool may once again be without Whelan and Beardsley, who have both missed the last three games because of ankle injuries.

Arsenal, the only club yet to lose a League game this season, have added Hillier to their squad for today's game against City, who are in seventh position. Peter Reid, the manager of City, is expected to select Clark in attack after Heath was ruled out because of a groin strain.

Report, page 26

Cowans praise for ambitious Palace

By CHRIS MOORE

IT IS mathematically possible for Crystal Palace to start the new year by moving level on points with Liverpool at the top of the first division.

For that to happen, Palace would need to win at Aston Villa, Liverpool would have to lose at home to Leeds United, and Arsenal would need to surrender their unbeaten record to Manchester City at Maine Road. But Palace have every reason to be reaching for the sky today, according to Gordon Cowans, Villa's veteran midfielder player.

"They're getting themselves into the same sort of position that we were in last season," Cowans said. "The big thing they have got going for them is a great team spirit and a tremendous work-rate."

"The way they stopped Liverpool playing on Sunday was phenomenal. They're on a

roll and are starting to make everyone else sit up and take notice of them."

Chris Hughton, the Tottenham Hotspur and Republic of Ireland defender, has joined the second division leaders, West Ham United, on a free transfer.

Angry shareholders who attended the annual meeting of Tottenham Hotspur plc yesterday revealed there was only one motion on the agenda, which called for the meeting to be adjourned until further notice. This was initially rejected on a show of hands, but it was carried by a large majority on a proxy vote.

There was criticism of the handling of the meeting by the acting chairman of the company, Douglas Alexiou.

Barclays League

First division

A Villa v Crystal Palace
A Villa, a hamstring victim, could be replaced by Callaghan, who is still on the Villa transfer list. Palace should retain the side which beat Liverpool 1-0.

Chelsea v Everton
Townsend, the Chelsea captain, misses the game with a groin strain. Dorigo, Durie and Moriku also sit out because of injury. Everton search for their first away League win of the season. Kendall, the manager, has added Coffey and Keown to his squad.

Liverpool v Leeds
Liverpool await fitness checks on Beardsley and Whelan. Leeds are unchanged as they attempt to stretch their unbeaten run of 14 matches.

Man City v Arsenal

Hillier, a 21-year-old midfielder, has been drafted into the Arsenal squad and could make his League debut if Rocastle fails a fitness test. Clarke keeps his place for City with Heath still sidelined.

Sheff Utd v QPR
Rangers are unlikely to make changes after beating Sunderland 3-2 for their first League win in over two months.

Sunderland v Soton
Sunderland will be without Davenport (hamstring) and Ord (flu). Gubbins, the leading scorer, may replace the absent Davenport if he overcomes knee problems. Southampton have a knee problem. Southampton are unchanged as they attempt to stretch their unbeaten run of 14 matches.

Tottenham v Man Utd

Hillier, a 21-year-old midfielder, has been drafted into the Arsenal squad and could make his League debut if Rocastle fails a fitness test. Clarke keeps his place for City with Heath still sidelined.

Wimbledon v Luton
Gibson and Kruszyński may return for Wimbledon. Williams, the Luton midfielder, is expected to return after a two-match suspension after collecting six bookings this season.

Second division

Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed
Middlesbrough are unchanged as they attempt to stretch their unbeaten run of 14 matches.

No substitute for concentration



Out of reach: Julie Richardson (13) and Lorna Norman, of Crystal Palace, are unable to prevent Caroline Swords, of Laurentian Voyagers, getting a shot away during their basketball match at the National Recreation Centre yesterday

Hull coach going out on top

By KEITH MACKLIN

BRIAN Smith, the Hull coach, could not have wished for a more skilfully stage-managed finale to his rugby league career. Smith takes his league leaders to Craven Park today for the blood-and-thunder derby with Hull Kingston Rovers, and then has the home game with Leeds next Sunday for his farewell before returning to coach in Australia.

Smith can be proud of his achievements at the Boulevard. His coaching methods and abrasive approach to television summarising have aroused criticism, but he lifted Hull from the bottom reaches of the first division to a premiership final and to their present first division leadership. He leaves the club in good playing shape for Noel Cleal, his Australian successor.

Today's game kicks off at 1pm at the request of the police, and a full house will expect to see a typical fiercely fought derby, with Rovers determined to topple their rivals from their lofty position. Hull will be without Richard Gay, who has a head injury.

Sheffield is to make appeal for fresh funds

By PETER DAVENPORT

SHEFFIELD City Council is to make an appeal to central government for funds to help run the increasingly troubled World Student Games, which is facing the prospect of incurring huge losses on the event this summer.

Leaders of the Labour-controlled authority are to meet Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, later this month, and will seek a significant financial commitment towards the running of the Games.

They are expected to ask for at least £4 million in financial aid to ensure the success of the largest sports event ever held in this country, and to prevent losses being passed on to poll tax payers in the city.

So far, the government has made no direct contribution towards the running costs of the event, although the Sports Council has put in £2.6 million. The Whitehall response to an appeal at this late stage is far from clear.

Yesterday, the Sheffield council met in special session to hear details of a report prepared by Ray Gridley, director of Games administration, on the progress towards the organisation and funding of the event, which is due to bring 6,000 athletes and officials from 120 nations to the city in June.

With just 194 days left before the event is due to open, Gridley said that current commitments stood at £9.4 million against pledged income of £5.57 million - leaving a shortfall of £3.81 million.

The council has said it is studying a range of options for staging the Games, running from £17 million to £27 million, but it has not yet disclosed which of the packages it will aim for. In the light of current financial difficulties, the cheaper option seems to be the one they will

have to embrace, but even that leaves them - on current figures - some £11 million adrift.

Although the building of £147 million-worth of new sports facilities inspired by the Games has been proceeding on schedule, the organisation of the event itself has been dogged by problems and persistent controversy.

There were reports yesterday that some members of the controlling Labour group, as well as Labour MPs in the city, were so dismayed at the crisis that they wanted the event called off unless the government comes up with a substantial cash injection.

David Chadwick, the leader of the Liberal group and the most vociferous critic of Labour's handling of the event, said yesterday: "We are heading for a £10 million deficit with not a clue where the money is to come from. This city council is, in all essence, bankrupt."

Clive Betts, the leader of the council, yesterday reaffirmed its intention to stage the Games, and the belief of the Labour group of its long-term benefit to the city. He said that cancelling the Games would itself incur large costs - some estimates put the figure between £5 million and £10 million.

"We are not contemplating cancellation," Betts said, adding that support from the government was now a requirement. "We believe this is a British event and they [the government] ought to take some element of responsibility."

The Games were originally sought by Sheffield as a catalyst for the city's economic regeneration after a decade in which it suffered 35,000 job losses as its traditional industries went into chronic decline.

British pair stave off mechanical failure

MARSEILLES (AP) -

Competitors in the Paris-Dakar Rally regrouped here yesterday with British interest already threatened, before making the traditional New Year's eve Mediterranean crossing to Tripoli.

Dick Partridge and his navigator, Keith Parker, were forced to make roadside repairs when the gearbox on their Isuzu Trooper failed on the journey from Paris to Clermont Ferrand for Sun-

day's first stage, a 3.1-mile prologue.

The only Britons in the car section, they rebuilt the gearbox to run without second gear, arriving in Clermont Ferrand with only a five-minute penalty and completing the prologue in 107th place out of 183 entrants.

Clay Regazzoni, of Switzerland, became the first withdrawal after breaking a motor cylinder head on his Mercedes en route to Clermont Ferrand.

England shed woes for business with the beast

From ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
SYDNEY

HARD on the heels of the last Test match of 1990, and one of the best, comes a controversial milestone. This week sees the twentieth anniversary of an accidental revolution, and it will be celebrated and castigated by roughly equal numbers, and with similar passion, throughout the cricketing world.

The one-day international forms such an accepted and substantial part of the game's calendar that it will surprise many recent converts that the concept was born out of desperation, over a wet Melbourne new year, as recently as 1971.

Still more surprising is that the revolution was so slow to gather momentum that in its first eight years only 56 international matches were staged around the world. In the past eight years there have been 494.

The development of the overs game is full of anomalies. Only England, the first country to play one-day cricket domestically, have been consistent in their attitude to it. Apart from the three World Cup summers, they have never scheduled more than four one-day internationals in a season, a policy of sensible rationing which retains each game as a special occasion rather than a chore.

lurched from stubborn indifference to stifling over-indulgence in the time it took Kerry Packer to hijack their best players, dress them in coloured clothing and then offer their return for the courtesy of the television rights he had always wanted. With the deal done, the Australian Cricket Board, having refused for eight years to acknowledge the one-day game, suddenly found itself responsible for up to 20 matches each year.

As for India, the last bastion of exclusively Test cricket up to 1980, the bug has struck late but bitten deep. In two of the last four years, they have staged more internationals than even Australia and the effect on Test matches, for which tickets were once gold dust, has

been such a drastic decline in crowds that all the administrators can think of is planning more and more of the same.

This, of course, is why one-day internationals are at once the beauty and the beast. The game could not survive in its time-honoured form, nor should even consider it, without Test cricket, yet it is marketing itself in a manner designed to put the five-day game out of business.

For the evidence, look no further than Australia this week. The Melbourne Test was a classic five-day game, never less than absorbing and occasionally quite spectacular. It attracted one good crowd of 50,000, on Boxing Day, and four disappointing ones aggregating 75,000. It is hard to believe that anybody

present went away feeling he had been short-changed and yet the situation here in Sydney depressingly confirms one's worst fears.

Today's World Series Cup match between Australia and England has been sold out since late last week; so too, has the first final in the competition, scheduled for January 13. But tickets for the third Ashes Test, beginning on Friday, are still so plentiful that advance sales for the entire five days will probably not equal the takings from today's floodlit game.

This is not a new situation in Australia. Bob Radford, chief executive of the New South Wales Cricket Association, said: "The trend has been obvious for years. Personally, I am very sorry

about it, but it is now a fact of life."

England must put their Test match worries and woes to one side, don the blue strip once more and attend to unfinished business. For those who have mistaid the facts, they need to win at least one of their two remaining games with Australia, the second being on January 10, to qualify for the finals, which, if incentive for tired limbs is required, carry a winners' prize of around £13,000.

This is so much a second priority for England and for Graham Gooch, cricket's new OBE, that no risks were being contemplated with players less than fully fit. Lamb and Fraser were ruled out, Malcolm was ready to rest a shoulder strain and

Gower was unlikely to play if only because the need to ferry the ball back from his lame throwing arm in the outfield might look only ridiculous in a Test, but is simply unacceptable in the sprint games.

The party is in a threadbare state, and it would surely be wise for them to pull back from the plan to dispatch Hugh Morris on his travels with the A team. Not only is he fit, acclimatised, and refreshingly enthusiastic, he is just the sort of robust left-hander who might reduce the potency of Bruce Reid, who is wisely rested today, over the remaining Tests.

As for today's event, there will be at least six people in the ground able to reminisce about the 20-year-old innovation it unofficially celebrates. Bill Lawry, Ian Chappell, Rodney Marsh and Keith Stackpole, of Australia, and Geoff Boycott and John Snow, of England, are all here in different guises and most will doubtless recall their one-day international debut as an apparently freakish, hit-and-giggle match, fitted in to appease the cricket-starved Melburnians after an abandoned Test.

But, to everybody's astonishment, 46,000 people turned up at the MCG that day. In so doing, they ensured that, though the game would not change overnight, it would never be the same again.

NOTABLE LANDMARKS IN THE ONE-DAY GAME

SINCE the first one-day international match - between Australia and England at Melbourne on January 5, 1971 - the one-day format game has produced many landmarks.

- There have been 656 matches at 90 venues in nine countries; 78 have been played under floodlights, 51 in Sydney, 22 in Melbourne, and three in Perth.
- The highest score is 360 for four, by West Indies against Sri Lanka at Karachi in the World Cup, 1987-8. There have been 21 totals of 300 or more.
- The lowest all-out total - excluding shortened matches - is 45, by Canada against England at Old Trafford in 1979.
- The largest winning margin is 232 runs, by Australia against Sri Lanka at Adelaide in 1984-5. Forty matches have been won by more than 100 runs.

- including 12 by West Indies and seven have been won by ten wickets. Seven matches have been won by only one run and 39 by fewer than ten runs.
- 31 batsmen have scored 5,000 runs - Desmond Haynes, 6,622 (in 176 innings, with 18 hundreds, at 43.28), Viv Richards, 6,501 (180 innings, 11 hundreds, 47.80), Javed Miandad, 5,654 (167 innings, six hundreds, 41.88), Allan Border, 5,437 (201 innings, three hundreds, 31.79), and Gordon Greenidge, 5,025 (121 innings, 11 hundreds, 46.10).
- The highest individual score was Richards's 189 not out, at Old Trafford for West Indies against England in 1984.
- Three wicketkeepers have more than 100 victims: Jeff Dujon, 191 (178 ct, 18st); Rodney Marsh 124 (120, 4t); Saleem Yousuf 103 (81, 22).

- There are five outstanding all-round performances: Imran Khan, 3,255 runs, 167 wickets; Kapil Dev, 3,100, 188; Mudassar Nazar, 2,654, 111; Viv Richards, 6,501, 118; Ravi Shastri, 2,557, 115.

| Team | Games | Wins | Defeats | Tied | No result |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|-----------|
| England | 182 | 94 | 81 | 1 | 6 |
| Australia | 241 | 125 | 104 | 2 | 10 |
| India | 179 | 78 | 97 | 0 | 8 |
| New Zealand | 167 | 70 | 93 | 0 | 7 |
| Pakistan | 233 | 101 | 98 | 0 | 7 |
| Sri Lanka | 113 | 22 | 86 | 0 | 4 |
| West Indies | 232 | 143 | 66 | 1 | 0 |
| Bangladesh | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Canada | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| East Africa | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 12 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 0 |

* Not including the recent Asia Cup

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I did not learn a thing from the World Cup

George Graham, the Arsenal manager

Peter Ball selects the best of the sayings that help recall the highlights of the sporting year of 1990

● I don't know much about apartheid. Mike Gatting setting off on the ill-fated cricket tour of South Africa.

● It is like a large white sheet with one black dot, and everybody concentrates on the dot. Myrddin John, Welsh weightlifting team manager, after two members of his team failed drugs tests.

● My wife has been at me to take a few days off from rugby. Now I'll have a few months off. Alain Carmichael, French forward, after being sent off for stamping on John Jeffrey's head against Scotland.

● I wanted them to stop thinking of rugby as a bit of fun, something you play once a week and train for on Tuesday and Thursday night before having a few beers. To be successful at international level, you can't behave like that. You have to think of yourself like Sebastian Coe or Daley Thompson because, like them, you are at the top of your sport. You are competing on the world stage. That means your entire lifestyle must be devoted to your sport. You can't do it on eight pints and fish and chips every training night. Geoff Cooke, England rugby union manager.

● We just let their over-confidence help beat themselves. At the start, they were obviously believing in their own hype, you could see it in their eyes. Finlay Calder, after Scotland's 13-7 victory against England.



● They were chosen for their looks above all else. We need women who look good. We have learned over the years that the aesthetic element is important for good coverage. Lionel Provost, the promoter, explaining the choice of Deborah McHaffie and Tammie Green from photographs to play in the Hennessy Cup women's golf tournament.

● I'm not a chauvinist. Women just aren't as good as men at anything — well, in sport, anyway. Eric Bristow, darts player.

Ever since I started this project, I was told that it's impossible for a girl to get a boat, sponsorship and a crew, and that it's laughable for the female crew to win. So it's a triumph over those who thought it couldn't be done. Tracy Edwards, after Maiden came first in the class in the Fremantle leg of the Whitbread round the world yacht race.

● It's become a race between two admission policies. Richard Young, Cambridge rower on the Boat Race.

● I've played at Cowdenbeath and East Stirling, and once you've been there you're cruising for the rest of your life. Gordon Strachan, Leeds captain, on his move into the second division.

● We'd better buy some shooting sticks, the clubs we'll be playing next season don't have stands. London Welsh supporter as his team sank to the bottom of the Courage clubs championship.

● My little jig is very ceremonial and I was hoping to celebrate the batsman getting out. Viv Richards rejecting suggestions that he had pressurised the umpire, Lloyd Barker, into obtaining Rob Bailey's dismissal in Bridgetown.

● You can stick snooker up your jacksy. I don't want to be part of it any more. This game is the most corrupt in the world. I don't want to be part of a game where there are slush funds for everybody and the players are mucked about. Alex Higgins announcing his "retirement" after defeat in the first round of the world championship.

● It was only the hurt in my cheeks from the constant broad smile that convinced me this dream I had had since I was a child had come true. Marcus Armytage on winning the Grand National on Mr Frisk.

● I thought it was a Christmas card when I was opening it. The invitation is being framed and it will hang for ever on the wall. Roman Haefliger on receiving an invitation to play in the US Masters for the first time.

● I'm glad they've got water on every tee; the mouth gets very dry. Nick Faldo feeling the tension during the final rounds of the US Masters.

● To be honest, I thought that in extra time both teams had settled for a replay. I was panicking then because I hadn't re-booked our hotel for midweek. Steve Coppell, Crystal Palace manager, generally staying calm during his side's 4-3 FA Cup semi-final victory over Liverpool.

● Like shooting wee ducks at a fairground to try and win a prize. Alex Smith, Aberdeen manager, on his team's Scottish Cup final victory in a penalty shoot-out.

● High profile players would probably include the props, the flashing back-row man with the blond hair, and the two wings or the try-scorers. But what about the guy who makes the half-break and puts the try scorer through? He will not be recognised or offered say £5,000 to model for an agency or to drive a new car. Simon Halliday, Bath and England centre, on rugby union's relaxing its rules on amateurism.

● I want them to put an extra screw on the scoreboard so there is room for the thousand. David Hughes, Lancashire captain, as his side got to 665 for 3 in reply to Surrey's 707 for 9. They failed to reach four figures.

● There are players now who won't even go into the tournament changing-rooms. It's such a problem some families often go along just to keep their youngsters away from the lesbian element. Margaret Court on the women's world tennis circuit.

● I'm not gay, I go surfing. Jason Donovan, pop singer.

● It isn't as prestigious as it was. It used to be on a par with footballers, all the players liked to be pictured with Page Three girls. I think they think it's a bit down-market now.

● Even now people say "Did you ever dream in those days that you would come in second?" Of course not. I dreamed of coming first. Tracy Edwards, looking back on Maiden's voyage.

● If there is a battle, we're not going to lose it. Antonio Secchia, Cagliari police chief, on preparations for the English supporters.

● Being champion is like being married. Losing is like a divorce. Mike Tyson after losing the world heavyweight championship to Buster Douglas.

● The Cricket Test — which side do they cheer for? Norman Tebbit introducing a new criterion of successful integration.

● I'm sure if Becker and Graf had been born in England, they'd now either be selling fish and chips on Bournemouth pier, or at some art college. David Evans, MP, former Luton chairman, planning a coaching scheme and centre at Hemel Hempstead.

● We can't buy a Nigel Kennedy, a Kenneth Branagh or a Nick Faldo. They have to emerge. Ian Pascoe, chief executive of the Lawn Tennis Association, on its player development programme.

● Is there any prize-money? Competitor, the Prudential short tennis championships for under-11s.

● The race isn't over until the fat mermaid sings. Peter Blake, skipper of the winner, Steinlager 2, of the Whitbread round the world race.

● There's a hundred years of bloody tradition on Yorkshire lads. As soon as a male's born, bloody hell, the fellow says, good, I'm glad he's born in Yorkshire. By the time he's toddling, he's got a bat in his hand. Bloody Pakistanis didn't know the damn thing. Brian Close, chairman, cricket sub-committee, Yorkshire CCC, on the county's search for talent.

● It's nothing to do with colour. They hate people from Lancashire, people from down south, people from abroad, even people from the wrong part of the county. Yorkshire just hate everybody. I've seen really good white lads frozen out too, because they don't fit in. Wasim Raja, failed Yorkshire trialist.



● We failed Tebbit's cricket test and we're proud of it. Indian supporters' banner at Headingley.

● My husband and I were appalled by the constant stream of lewd and incredibly offensive remarks about coloured people, in particular coloured women and Jewish men. Among these middle-aged lous was a man who has held high office in the cricketing world, but certainly could not be described as a Yorkshire gentleman. Lady Hill, a Yorkshire businesswoman's wife, on a day watching England v New Zealand at Headingley.

● Where is Gascoigne. I must speak to him. He is a dog of war with the face of a child. Gianni Agnelli, Juventus president, succumbing to Gazzamania.

● There is a Mafia even in the soccer world. The penalty didn't exist. It was given to let the Germans win. Maradona after Argentina's World Cup final defeat.

● I wanted to win. I didn't care if I had to scrape and scratch and crawl out there. Martina Navratilova on her record ninth Wimbledon singles title.

● I didn't learn a thing from the World Cup. George Graham, Arsenal manager.

● I wouldn't say I've reached the stage where I'm going to tell the selectors to stuff it. But while I'm not ready to sever all ties, I have got as far as saying "Sod 'em". David Gower after being dropped for the first Test match against New Zealand.

● Cor, and I travelled 12,000 miles to see that. Craig White's father, an Australian resident, returning home to see his son get a duck for Yorkshire at Uxbridge.

● I didn't want to strike a blow for feminism. I wasn't going to stand in my suspenders, knock on the pavilion door and demand to get in. Pat Hughes, Glamorgan CCC committee member, on being barred from Lord's pavilion during the NatWest Trophy quarter-final.

● I will never play in another PGA Championship. I've played in five now and the courses are all the same. The rough is diabolical. Ian Woosnam at Shoal Creek.

● I felt instead like watching the tournament on television. It was rainy and windy and the course didn't look inviting. I would have preferred instead to have had an enormous lunch. Mark James after beating Sam Torrance to retain his NM English Open title at The Belfry.

● I would rather not go. I will fight for my country if I have to, but I think I would serve it better by competing in major championships. Sir Aircraftman Paul Edwards, British shot putter facing a posting to the Gulf.

● It's television's last live frontier. The good guy in the white hat doesn't always get the girl. That's the beauty of live sport. Dave Hill, head of BSkyB sport.

● There's not one player in your team who wants to play anywhere else — and I certainly don't want to manage anywhere else. Howard Kendall to City supporters before the Manchester derby in October.

● It's no fun when you have to struggle for pars all the way. They should put the tees forward when the wind blows to give us a chance. Ian Woosnam at the Volvo Masters in Sotogrande.

● How ironic that this should happen on the anniversary of the Coventry blitz. When I received the phone call from the chairman, it felt like my house had just been bombed. John Sillett on his dismissal as Coventry manager.

● You watch our players and you know that when it comes to the crunch they won't do it. In the Davis Cup I saw a player who could not get off court quickly enough because it was starting to rain. Alan Durrant, director of Telford Leisure Centre, on British tennis players.

● I'll tell Goochie one thing: if he wants to keep his captain's dream alive, he's got to stop giving Gus 13-over spells like he did on Friday night. Gus is the goose that lays the golden egg; therefore you have got to look after him. He is at the start of what could be a long England career. But it could turn into a short career if England don't start using him in shorter spells. Mike Gatting reacting to Fraser's long spell against India at Old Trafford. Kim Barnett had already made the same complaint for Devon Malcolm.

● In all my years on entering Lord's I was given the feeling I was trespassing. Small Gavaskar turning down honorary life membership of MCC.

● How many bedrooms will you have in your new house? Will you get a dog? Fanny Sunesson, Faldo's caddie, keeping him relaxed during his winning round in the Open.

● I don't know the president of Juventus. Isn't he a car salesman? Brian Clough reacting angrily to Juventus's attempts to secure Des Walker.

● It gets to something when my mates have got to hide me in the boot of the car to get me in and out of my own home and White Hart Lane. Paul Gascoigne discovering the drawbacks of fame.

● Wherever I look now I see Gazza's smiling face; bright, blind-bird eyes, pink piglet skin, mouth permanently ajar, teeth exposed in a curving arc, tongue alert for protrusion. Lama Thompson, The Times, on the Gazza factor.

● In Halifax we are getting rid of the assumption that football clubs are the preserve of white middle-class men in camel coats, sipping champagne and using the game as an extension of their own egos and virility. Dave Helliwell, leader of Halifax Council, who own Halifax Town.

● I would rather not go. I will fight for my country if I have to, but I think I would serve it better by competing in major championships. Sir Aircraftman Paul Edwards, British shot putter facing a posting to the Gulf.

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● Football in Britain could not be in a sorer state. Sport is dying. The future is in culture, spirituality and religion. Robert Maxwell.

● The referee said Warhurst had been sent off for foul and abusive language, but the lad swears blind he never said a word. Joe Boyle, Oldham manager, after Rumbelows Cup match at Notts County.

● I am not ready to fight against irresponsible people who are not afraid to die. Alain Prost accusing Ayrton Senna of deliberately crashing him at the first corner of the Japanese grand prix. Prost's retirement ensured that Senna became champion.

● Keep him away from Diana. Palace official on Gascoigne after his "cuddle" with Mrs Thatcher.

● He is his own best PR, but we always knew he was no Pavarotti. I wouldn't advise him to hang up his boots just yet. Ray Laidlaw, Lindsfarne drummer, on Gazza the pop star.

● It takes him a fortnight to put his socks on. Mick Stewart on Devon Malcolm.

● I'll never fight Nigel Benn again. He nearly killed me. Chris Eubank after winning the WBO middleweight championship.

● Thanks to him, I've changed my technique in the way I go down in the scrum. Simon Dorrington, England women's hooker, on her male counterpart, Brian Moore.

● Does my ban from international cricket mean I have to be treated like a leper? Mike Gatting after his participation at the England nets caused a furore.

● You get opposing props with bad breath, those who try to gouge your eyes out, and try to break your back. Yes, it's a tough old game. Gareth Chilcott, England and Bath prop.

● The top companies already know they cannot go wrong with the England rugby team, its high profile and squeaky clean image. Bob Willis, whose company is marketing the England rugby players.

● There are too many old fogies up there ever to sign an overseas player. Doorman at the Leeds Holiday Inn as the Yorkshire committee debated the issue. He was right, by 15-5.

● Yorkshire cricket is still living in the dark ages. Paul Jarvis, Yorkshire fast bowler, on the county's rejection of overseas players.

● Sometimes you have to accept there's nothing you can do — extra training, psychology, getting a couple of strippers in, none of it will help. Dave Bassett as Sheffield United set a record for games without a win.

● I didn't get it for crying. Paul Gascoigne on being made BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

● The press were writing him off, and that acted as a spur for him. Richard Burridge after Desert Orchid won the King George VI Chase on Boxing Day.



● Nice and coddly. Paul Gascoigne after meeting Mrs Thatcher.

English

Rothmans is dismissing protest

MOCK

SUCCESS

English title is a jewel in the European crown

THE English title is regarded as the hardest in Europe to win. No other champions must maintain such a high level of consistency for so long — not even in Italy, which features the best players in the world. There, as elsewhere, the leaders can afford to coast through the odd game.

Not here. As soon as the first division clubs have opened the fourth League fixture in ten days, they must immediately start their preparations for the FA Cup — the most demanding domestic knockout competition in Europe — at the end of the week.

"Our first division may not have the highest quality," George

STUART JONES

Graham says, "but it is the most competitive. Ask Jozef Venglos. He will tell you how surprised he was to find out how hard his Aston Villa side has to work against even the lowliest of clubs."

Graham's opinion was reinforced last Saturday when Arsenal were in danger of yielding their unbeaten record at home to the bottom club, Sheffield United. They avoided the ignominy and, but for the two points deducted by the Football

Association, would by now have overtaken Liverpool, the leaders throughout the season.

Liverpool remain the favourites but their stature and advantage were eroded in London last month. As well as being defeated by Arsenal and Crystal Palace, they were held by Queen's Park Rangers — another result which supports Graham's view. Having collected one point from nine games, Rangers at the time were nineteenth.

Kenny Dalglish conceded at Selhurst Park on Sunday that his side is no longer "firing on all cylinders". That much is obvious. Liverpool, who started by setting a club record of eight

consecutive victories, have dropped ten points over the last five weeks and offered unforeseen hope to their pursuers.

The tactical decisions of Dalglish, such as omitting Peter Beardsley, who was their leading scorer, at Highbury, have been curiously cautious. The manager's trepidation has been transmitted to a team which seemed irresistible earlier in the season but now appears to be comparatively toothless and vulnerable.

They entertain one of the three genuine contenders today in a fixture which promises to refresh memories of two decades ago. Under Howard Wilkinson, Leeds

United are beginning to resemble the formidable unit fashioned by Don Revie. Unbeaten since October 20, they go to Anfield with four successive wins behind them.

Liverpool are far from being the only hosts attempting to reverse recent fortunes. Chelsea, Derby County, Norwich City and Tottenham Hotspur have lost their last two games, Wimbledon their last three and Sunderland their last four.

The lone exceptions to the general theme are Manchester City and Villa. By coincidence, their visitors are Liverpool's closest challengers — Arsenal and Palace respectively.

Venglos will have no illusions about the competitive nature of the opposition. His team, yet to recover from the defeat by Internazionale, of Milan, in the UEFA Cup, can expect one of the least relaxed afternoons of the season.

Their inability to score has reached chronic proportions. Of their five goals in the last 11 fixtures, one was contributed by the opposition and another was a penalty.

In dropping to fifteenth place, Villa now find themselves in a position to confirm the theories put forward by Graham and their own manager.



Graham: most competitive

YACHTING

Rothmans's appeal is dismissed by protest committee

From BOB ROSS IN HOBART

THE protest committee yesterday rejected a move by the British yacht, Rothmans, skippered by Lawrie Smith, to have removed or reduced the placings penalty which took away her line honours victory in the Sydney to Hobart race.

The race committee had penalised Rothmans ten per cent of her placings for carrying a spinaker bearing her sponsor's logo, in contravention of the International Yacht Racing Union rules.

The race rules, which grant the race committee power to deal with an infringement disclosed by a yacht on her declaration, also give a yacht the right to a hearing where she satisfies the race committee that an error may have been made.

Rothmans, while declaring that she carried a spinaker bearing her sponsor's logo, claimed the race committee was not aware of relevant factors when it decided on the penalty, which her sponsor described as "extremely severe".

The protest committee rejected Rothmans's application for a hearing.

Rothmans's case, presented by the navigator, Vincent Geake, alleged Rothmans had a letter from the race organisers, the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (CYCA), saying the race committee would not protest under Rule 26, which governs advertising, that the spinaker had not infringed the spirit of the rule because it had been flown 20 miles offshore and that the race committee had coerced Rothmans into lodging the declaration that she had flown the spinaker in breach of race rules.

"Although the spinaker was flown out of sight of land, the world saw it through newspaper and television pictures. While the figure of \$600,000 had been quoted to build eight new logo-free spinakers, the existing ones could have been altered at a cost of \$250 to \$400 per spinaker."

The protest committee's decision re-affirmed the 11-year-old Sydney maxi, Ragamuffin, skippered by Syd Fischer, as line honours winner, and Sagacious V, skippered by Gary Appleby, as the overall winner. Although final official results still have to be posted, Rothmans will probably be listed ninth.

Smith denied that flying the spinaker was a publicity stunt. He said: "We would like to have won the race and won the trophy. We were first here but didn't get the trophy."

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ATHLETICS

Marathon men hit by a breakdown in communications

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

IF BRITAIN'S best marathon runners could have a wish for 1991, surely it would be that the national selectors might occasionally pick up the telephone to talk to them. The selectors' apparent indifference to the event in 1990 was a disgrace, and this year has not started promisingly.

The Morpeth to Newcastle road race today has attracted a good field which includes three accomplished marathon runners, Paul Davies-Hale, Kevin Forster and Tony Milovosov. For Davies-Hale and Forster it is an important run-out in their preparation for the Tokyo Marathon six weeks hence.

When the British Amateur Athletic Board (BAAB) decided a fortnight ago to fill almost immediately one of its three places for the men's world championship next summer, it made a false assumption: that it had more than one athlete to choose from. Only later did it discover that no one who might have wanted to run, with the exception of Allister Hutton, the London Marathon winner, had achieved the qualifying time of 2hr 12min within the International Amateur Athletic Federation's specified period. The only other qualified Briton, Mike O'Reilly, had said he was not interested.

By talking to the athletes, the BAAB would have discovered that a better policy decision would have been to pick its man after the Tokyo Marathon. It would then have been spared the embarrassment of Les Jones, the national team manager, having to point out the error to a council meeting last Sunday.

"It was decided [on December 16] that we would select one marathon runner before Christmas to give him more time to prepare," Jones said. "The case I am going to put on Sunday is that we confirm our policy of early selection, but that we do it after the Tokyo Marathon. We are trying to produce the best team to win medals for Britain and if we have to do a U-turn then so be it."

The same lack of foresight was evident last April when the board failed to name Geoff Wightman for the European championship immediately after the London Marathon, apparently reserving the place for Davies-Hale but not realising that the Cannock man then had eyes only for the 10,000 metres.

Not even Hutton has a case now for selection, assuming he wishes it. The other two places will be filled after London on April 21, and he will have to run well there to merit it. Anything under 2hr 10min next month should earn Davies-Hale a place in the early pack, but should he fail, the selectors may have to abandon their pre-selection idea.

Davies-Hale probably has the widest range of talent of any British runner from 1,500 metres upwards. In 1989 he ran a 3min 55.8sec mile and a 2hr 11min 25sec marathon, winning Chicago, his only marathon so far. His form was evidenced by his second place to Eamonn Martin in the Durham cross country on Saturday. On a Tokyo course which is the second-fastest in the world, behind Rotterdam, 2:10 should be within his range.

Of the BAAB's tangled web, he said: "It is embarrassing, but it is nice to know there is some faith in what I am capable of." He applauded the board's good intentions in trying to give one man more notice. "The sooner a marathon runner knows what he is doing the better for his preparation," he said.

Quite what the selectors will make of Forster's explanation that he does not wish to be considered for the world championship because he had no desire to run London as a trial in successive years, and the 1992 Olympics are more appealing, is hard to imagine. But his mind is made up, even if he runs a blinder next month. Not that he is waiting by the telephone expecting a selector to call enquiring of his plans.

SWIMMING

Introduction of random drug testing urged by Canadians

From CRAIG LORD IN PERTH

THE shadow of Ben Johnson settled over the sixth world swimming championships yesterday as Canada described the progress of China's women as "suspect", and urged Fina, the sport's governing body, to set up its own "flying squad" of drug testers.

With the Dublin enquiry into the Johnson affair fresh in their minds, Canadian coaches, swimmers and officials said that if the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) plan for a roving testing system was not implemented soon, Fina should set up its own programme to ensure "our sport, at least, is clean". If implemented, such a move would see medical staff arriving at any training session or competition in any country to test for drug abuse.

Ross Wales, the honorary secretary of Fina, gave a cautious response, saying world

rules were being looked at to make sure they would reflect "prevailing situations" by the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. Such measures as likely to take the heat off the Chinese team's arrival today at Perth's Superdome as the hot, dry summer here.

Dave Johnson, the head coach to the Canadian team, said: "There are still countries that cheat. The Asian Games results were very surprising indeed. China has to be suspect. That's the general feeling among world swimmers."

China are fielding nine women who between them have 13 top-five world ranking places. They had none in the top 20 four years ago. The most impressive times are from the Hong Kong, Wang and Hong Qian in the 100 metres butterfly. At 58.87sec and 58.89sec respectively, they are the closest

anybody has come to the world record of 57.93sec set by Mary T. Meagher, of the United States.

Meagher was the only woman to cause serious damage to East Germany's 16-year supremacy in women's events, which crumbled with the Berlin Wall. China's sudden advance coincided with the arrival there of former East German coaches, now redundant back home.

Trevor Tiffany, the Canadian team leader, said: "The Dublin enquiry showed that a drug problem exists. I have made references to suspicions in swimming in relation to articles by East Germans in magazines like Stern. Why should we doubt that East German women took drugs? The articles came from the horse's mouth."

"Many swimmers have suffered because of the drugs era. When East Germany disappeared, our girls felt a great weight had been lifted. But cheating still goes on. If we have nothing to hide, then let's extend the testing programme."

None the less, Canadian suspicions are real, and have been repeated in private by other nations. Ross Wales, of Fina, said swimming organisers want a clear and clean sport, and encouraged testing. However, the process was costly, and he believed a body as large as the IOC was better equipped for the job than Fina.

Meanwhile, Mark Tewksbury, the Canadian backstroke champion, has gained confidence from the elimination of another form of "cheating". At the Seoul Olympics, the 100 metres world record holder, David Berkoff, of the United States, and the gold medalist, went to Daichi Suzuki, of Japan. Both swam more than 35 metres under water from the start.

A new rule now imposes a tenmetre limit on distance spent under water. "This time we'll see who's fastest on top of the water," Tewksbury, the Commonwealth champion who was fifth at Seoul, said.

Target for Long is clear as crystal

From CRAIG LORD

NEWS of the continuing success at Selhurst Park is music to the ears of Zara Long, an avid Crystal Palace football supporter. It has also provided the 15-strong British swimming squad with a welcome distraction as they wait for the start of the world championships over 8,000 miles away in Perth, Australia.

More than 1,000 swimmers from 68 countries, will compete for 32 titles over eight days. Such statistics make this the biggest swimming event ever held, beating even the Olympic Games. While the divers, water polo players and swimmers move into action on Thursday, the swimmers have to wait until Monday.

Long, of Beckenham, has swum in every leading national team since competing at the Los

Angeles Olympic Games, when she was 13 years old. "We're ready for this one," she said. "I've never been on such a positive team. The training camp has gone really well. As the races get nearer, we speak less about them. We choose other topics, like Crystal Palace winning."

Her upbeat view was echoed by all, with Adrian Moorhouse, the world record-holder and Olympic champion at 100 metres breaststroke, praising selectors for sticking to a policy of elitism. "It's great to be on a team in which every member is aiming to do their best," he said.

After a two-week training camp, most of the squad are ready for action. Their aim is clear: best times all round to ensure places in the finals, after which medals should follow.

SNOOKER

James aware of room for improvement

STEVE James, who begins his defence of the Mercantile Credit Classic with a third-round meeting against the Australian, John Campbell, at the Bournemouth International Centre tonight, has been somewhat accident prone over the past three years (Steve Acton writes).

However, having survived a variety of misfortunes, including a fully dressed drive into a boating lake just before a tournament match, he now believes he has stumbled across the secret of becoming world champion.

James, aged 29, the world No. 9, has finally convinced himself that practice really could make perfect, and is spending £10,000 on having a snooker room built onto his home at Cannock in the West Midlands.

"I believe I have the ability to become world champion or world No. 1 but I also know I have got to work harder," he said. "I've not been putting in the practice and I know I've got to do it if I'm going to challenge the likes of Stephen Hendry and Steve Davis."

POOLS FORECAST

THIRD DIVISION
Saturday January 5
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VALDIALE LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
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Bookmakers enjoy perfect end to year with eclipse of Cheltenham favourites

IAN STEWART



Eventual winner New Haven (Eamonn Tierney, left) jumping in unison with third-placed Iron Gray (Jamie Osborne) at Cheltenham yesterday

Rees family celebrate with Die Broke

By RICHARD EVANS

NEW Year celebrations began early for the family of former royal jockey Bill Rees at Cheltenham yesterday after a remarkable joint effort resulted in victory in the Dermot Daily Memorial Trophy Handicap Chase for amateur riders.

Rees, who rode Pas Seul to victory in the 1960 Cheltenham Gold Cup, was official starter for the day at National Hunt's headquarters and duly set off the five runners, including Die Broke, ridden by his son, James.

With the jockey's mother at the course to watch her son have his first ride this season, family emotions must have been running high as the Rees family gathered behind the front running Golden Field.

The Andy Turner-trained six-year-old took up the running

two fences from home, put in a splendid leap at the last and James Rees stayed as cool as the weather to drive Die Broke up the hill and withstand the challenge of River House and Up And Coming.

The win was the first under rules for James, aged 26, who has recorded four point-to-point victories and it kept up the family tradition of Cheltenham glory. Billy Rees, his grandfather, partnered Brown Jack to victory in the 1928 Champion Hurdle. James Rees is assistant to Turnbull, whose father, Bob, trained Pas Seul.

While the Rees family left Prestbury Park full of joy, the same could not be said for most punters who braved the showers and chill winds swirling round the jumping amphitheatre. All six favourites were beaten, providing the bookmakers with

a perfect end to the year.

Ran For Free was the most notable casualty, in the Spa Hurdle, where Bradbury Star swept past the 7-4 on favourite from home. Despite tying up badly on the run-in, the Irish-trained five-year-old still had six lengths to spare over Ran For Free. When the two horses met at Haydock three weeks ago, Martin Pipe's hurdler was the superior by 22 lengths.

Bradbury Star has never stopped improving since coming to Gifford's Fendyons and will now be given a rest before probably being aimed at the Stayers' Hurdle during the Cheltenham festival, where Trainer John is a doubtful participant.

La Cienega began the punter's nightmare in the opening Lansdowne Novices' Hurdle.

Toby Balding's gelding was cantering approaching the last and, after putting in a bold jump, look certain to win. Just when his stamina should have prevailed, he tired and Stron Beam swooped and outbatted Dusty Miller to win by half a length.

The fortunes of David Barons have never looked back since he decided to buy most of his horses from New Zealand and Maynard could prove to be as good as a Playchool after a highly impressive victory in the Broadway Novices' Chase. He jumped the last two fences particularly well and has booked his place in the Sun Alliance Chase.

As with most of his New Zealand stock, Barons bought Maynard as a yearling, brought him to England as a three-year-old and waited patiently for him to develop. "I rate him a good

horse. He was a fair hurdler, but will make a better chaser," he said. "I have got two very nice horses, this one and Topham Bay."

New Haven, a surprise 66-1 winner of the Midway of Flete Chase last season, will be seeking further Cheltenham festival glory following a smooth success in the Cleeve Hill Handicap Chase. Trainer Paul James will enter his nine-year-old for three festival handicaps over two, 2½ and three miles. "He is good in his own class in handicaps, but he is no good with big weights," he said.

Punters plunged on Jenny Pittman's Do Be Brief in the last race of the day, the Robinson Handicap Hurdle, in a desperate bid to get out of trouble, but a poor jump at the last by the 11-8 favourite ended his chances and those of his backers. "Never mind, there is always 1991," he said.

Results from yesterday's five meetings

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft
1.25 (2m hdl) 1. STRONG BEAU (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 2. DUSKY BEAU (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 3. LEAGUE OF FIFES (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 4. RAN FOR FREE (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 5. UP AND COMING (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 6. RIVER HOUSE (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 7. PAS SEUL (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 8. DIE BROKE (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 9. GOLDEN FIELD (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 10. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 11. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 12. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 13. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 14. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 15. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 16. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 17. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 18. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 19. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 20. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 21. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 22. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 23. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 24. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 25. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 26. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 27. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 28. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 29. BROWN JACK (J. Dwyer), 5-11; 30. BROWN JACK (J. 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Beech Road ready to redeem himself

to go freelance

By MANDARIN

JUST as the King George VI Chase gave Desert Orchid the opportunity to redeem his reputation, the New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor presents Beech Road with the ideal platform to re-assert his Champion Hurdle claims.

With conditions likely to be in his favour, I believe he will seize the chance.

The champion hurdler in 1989, before Kribensis took his crown last season, his form is every inch that of a horse who relishes some cut in the ground. Indeed, he won his Champion Hurdle on soft ground only to relinquish it when the going was too lively for him. Heavy rain in the south yesterday should ensure that he will have the necessary underfoot conditions.

He began the season with a comfortable 2½-length win over Royal Derby in the "Fighting Fifth" Hurdle at Newcastle, coming with a sweetly-timed challenge to lead approaching the last and drawing clear on the run-in.

On the basis of that eye-catching reappearance he was made a 9-4 on favourite to follow up at Haydock, but could finish only six lengths third to Run For Free. That was certainly disappointing but Toby Balding, his trainer, ascribed the defeat to ground which had become sticky and prevented Beech Road from making the best of his fluent

action. He is worth another chance.

Royal Derby reappears on only 3lb better terms than at Newcastle, not enough to encourage a belief that he can reverse the placings, and he has since been decisively beaten at Ascot. Floyd and the unpredictable Aidoo were behind in the valuable race won by Fiddler at Kempton's Christmas meeting while Past Pipe's Voyage Sans Retour.

But for the map I go to Cheltenham and Biggan to repeat last year's win in the four-mile ASW Handicap Chase. Speed has never been Biggan's strong suit but he is a determined stayer who comes into his own over extreme distances.

This testing course brings out the best in him and on his penultimate start he ran an excellent 1½ lengths second here to the much-improved Topham Bay over 3½ miles.

Boracava is another dour stayer but he blotted his copybook with a disappointing run in the Welsh National at Chepstow, as did Bonanza Boy, who was dismally before being pulled up. With the bottom half of the field out of the handicap proper by 9lb and upwards, this is an excellent opportunity for Biggan to register his first success of the season.

The Peter Easterby-trained

Elder Price can strike a blow for the north by winning the ASW Handicap Hurdle.

Winner of five of his last six starts, he continued his improvement when swooping on Driving Force at the final furlong to win by 2½ lengths at Uttoxeter last time. He still looks reasonably handicapped and can take advantage of the 21lb he receives from Martin Pipe's Voyage Sans Retour.

The most valuable race on the Leicester programme, the Wigston Hurdle, should go to the unbeaten Champagne Gold. The former smart Flat performer has made a fine start to his new career with clear-cut wins at Nottingham and Haydock.

Introducing Thunderer

THE TIMES racing service today introduces Thunderer to add to our range of selections and to represent us in the National Press Challenge.

Thunderer has been commissioned to collate the latest information from all the areas of racing intelligence. This extra dimension augments our full service of statistics, news and features and the tipping team headed by Mandarin (Michael Phillips).

WALTER Swinburn will not be riding as stable jockey to Michael Stoute this year, but hopes to continue his association with the Newmarket-based trainer on a freelance basis.

A short statement issued from Stoute's Freemason Lodge yesterday said: "Michael Stoute will not be retaining a stable jockey in 1991. Walter Swinburn will be riding as a freelance but will continue to ride frequently for the stable."

Swinburn's father, the former Irish champion jockey, Walter, later confirmed the surprise move by saying: "I know they have been discussing the situation over a period of time, and this announcement is a direct result of those discussions."

"The decision was a mutual one, taken on amicable terms, and Walter will definitely continue to ride for Michael wherever he is available to do so," Walter Swinburn was playing golf and unavailable for comment on the subject.

The Stoute-Swinburn combination first came to prominence through the exploits of Shergar, the brilliant 1981 winner of the Derby, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

Since then, the pair have enjoyed immense success together, frequently with horses owned by the Aga Khan. Their most significant shared victories, apart from Shergar, came with the 1986 Derby hero Shahrazad and the 1988 2,000 Guineas winner, the 1990 Derby winner, the 1990 Derby winner, the 1990 Derby winner.



Swinburn: successful association with Stoute

disqualified 1989 Oaks winner Alyssa, whose removal from the classic record books after a long-running Jockey Club enquiry involving a prohibited drug caused the Aga to remove all his horses from Britain.

Despite their many joint successes, however, Stoute and Swinburn have not always agreed on completely amicable terms, and rumours about a split have occurred throughout their association.

The most recent whispers followed the announcement last autumn that Steve Causton had been contracted to ride the majority of Sheikh Mohammed's horses next season. With Stoute's yard containing an abundance of the Sheikh's unpeccably-bred thoroughbreds, including the 1991 Derby hope Opera House, it was almost inevitable that there would be renewed speculation about Swinburn's long-term future.

LEICESTER

Selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Prime Display, 1.30 Champagne Gold, 2.0 Close Escape, 2.30 Knockennis, 3.0 Noel Luck, 3.30 De Profundis.

By Thunderer

1.0 Rochester, 1.30 Champagne Gold, 2.0 Close Escape, 2.30 Knockennis, 3.0 Reef Lark, 3.30 Stocksign.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles).

1.0 HUMBERSTONE NOVICES HURDLE (21,663: 2m) (18 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 6.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 7.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 8.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 9.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 10.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 11.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 12.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 13.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 14.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 15.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 16.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 17.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 18.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

1.0 HUMBERSTONE NOVICES HURDLE (21,663: 2m) (5 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

2.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 6.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 7.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 8.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 9.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

1.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 6.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 7.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 8.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 9.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

1.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 6.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 7.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 8.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 9.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

1.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 2.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 3.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 4.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 5.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 6.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 7.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 8.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4. 9.0 BALDWIN HILL 30 (J) P. Fowler 5-11-4. P. Haggan 5-11-4.

1.0 FORD NOVICES CHASE (22,608: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

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Victims in search of justice

Recent years have seen victims of serious crime using the civil courts to try to get the justice they feel is denied them within the criminal system by the failure of authorities to prosecute suspects.

However, it is a development that some legal experts feel is a mixed blessing. It may be the only way to achieve some kind of justice where the Director of Public Prosecutions has refused to take action, but it may also result in a defendant being branded as a criminal without having the protection normally given at trial.

Two cases illustrate the pros and cons of civil action in these circumstances. In November a Derby woman was given permission to sue for damages two men she claims murdered her 16-year-old daughter more than 12 years ago. The Court of Appeal overturned a previous ruling that the case should not proceed as it had been brought outside a three-year time limit for the beginning of the legal action.

When the action comes to the High Court, probably next autumn, it will be the first time a plaintiff has sued citizens for murder without a previous conviction in a criminal court. Indeed, in the case of one of the men the action goes further in breaking new ground as he has already been acquitted of the offence in a crown court.

The failure of authorities to prosecute suspects has seen a rise in the number of civil cases brought by victims, Tony Trueman writes



The girl's mother, Gail Halford, wants to obtain a public finding of guilt in the civil system because she failed to obtain it in the criminal courts. She has campaigned long and unsuccessfully for charges to be brought against the men.

Yet the pitfalls of civil action can be seen in the case of a 27-year-old woman who sued a physiotherapist for rape and won £25,108 damages in November 1988 after the Director of Public Prosecutions ruled there was insufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution.

The award was overturned a year later in the Court of Appeal, which ruled that the defendant had not had a fair hearing. By then the woman had been named by the media, which is forbidden in criminal trials, and the physiotherapist had lived for a year with the finding that he was a rapist. Both sides had suffered emotionally and financially.

The idea of taking civil action without a conviction being obtained first is not new. In previous centuries, before the development of the state prosecuting system, it

was a frequent means of redress. By suing in this way, the plaintiff has the advantage of a different standard of proof to win the action — not the familiar "beyond reasonable doubt" needed to convict but "the balance of probabilities" for the judge, who usually hears the case without a jury.

The action cannot be stopped by the Director of Public Prosecutions, as can private criminal prosecutions.

Few have any doubts that the use of civil action as a substitute for the criminal process will increase. A recent article by a solicitor in the *New Law Journal* suggested that child victims of sexual abuse could use it to circumvent the criminal system rule that the evidence must usually be corroborated before it can be admitted.

Carol Harlow, law professor at the London School of Economics, wants an easier way for crime victims, or their relatives, to challenge decisions by the Director of Public Prosecutions not to take criminal action. However, she doubts whether allowing a

suspect effectively to be declared a criminal in a civil court would always be a proper course of action.

"The state ought to have the last word," she says. "There are situations in which it is counter to the public interest to prosecute someone in the civil courts and put them in peril of a very serious finding against them."

She says that until recently there was a clear division in people's minds between criminal and civil action, but this was now becoming blurred. "Also there did not seem any point in bringing an action that was very expensive against somebody who could not pay," she says. "But today the law is being used for political purposes to campaign and make political points. It may be that the legal costs are being paid either by the legal aid system or by some pressure group."

John Wadham, legal officer for the National Council for Civil Liberties, says that, although civil actions should not be impeded, as they are often the only way of remedying an injustice, male defendants in civil rape actions

need protection. "The failure of the police complaints system and the reluctance of the authorities to prosecute police officers leave individuals who have suffered at the hands of police officers with only one realistic remedy and that is to take civil action against the police," he says.

"Of course, one of the difficulties for defendants in civil actions is that all the safeguards they would have if they were in a criminal action do not apply. Obviously, we would not want to prevent women in rape actions from suing but we would want male defendants to have proper safeguards and rights."

Jane Deighton, the London solicitor who has acted for Mrs Halford, supported her client's right to take action. She also cited discontent with what is seen as the authorities' failure to prosecute, particularly if police officers are under suspicion, as the reason for the rise in civil cases.

"There has been a massive groundswell of people wanting to take cases against the police for false imprisonment or malicious prosecution," Ms Deighton says. "There has been a huge increase in the number of people prepared to put their side on record and claim compensation. Effectively that has opened up a whole area of civil matters that could quite properly be dealt with in the criminal courts."



Going it alone: Gail Halford is accusing two men of murder

Law Report January 1 1991 Court of Appeal

Stringent criteria for imposing custodial sentences on young offenders

Regina v Muswell
Regina v Blackburn
Regina v Moore
Regina v Marshall

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Judge
[Judgment December 21]

Sentencing problems relating to young offenders on the proper construction of section 123(3) of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 were considered by the Court of Appeal in a reserved judgment given by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice.

His Lordship, giving the judgment of the court, said that the key to the true construction of section 123(3) was the crucial distinction to be drawn between the stringent tests which had to be applied before any of the criteria were established and the consequences which followed

once one of those criteria had been established.

The court was precluded from passing a custodial sentence unless satisfied that a prison sentence would be passed on an offender aged over 21, and that the particular offender under 21 qualified for a custodial sentence.

Section 123(3) then defined the circumstances in which the offender so qualified. Unless he did qualify, a custodial sentence could not be passed. However, the section was not drafted in such a way that it precluded the passing of custodial sentences for offences which would not themselves satisfy the requirement that the offence of which he had been convicted or found guilty was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified.

Once it was established that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence by reason of one or other of the statutory criteria, there was no further restriction in section 123.

Section 123(3) of the 1988 Act provides: The following subsections shall be substituted for subsection (4) [of section 1] of the Criminal Justice Act 1982: "(4) A court may not — (a) pass a sentence of detention in a young offender institution ... unless (i) it is satisfied (2) that the circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the offence are such that if the offender were aged 21 or over the court would pass a sentence of imprisonment; and (3) that he qualifies for a custodial sentence."

"(4A) An offender qualifies for a custodial sentence if — (a) he has a history of failure to respond to non-custodial pen-

alties and is unable or unwilling to respond to them; or (b) only a custodial sentence would be adequate to protect the public from serious harm from him; or (c) the offence of which he has been convicted or found guilty was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it cannot be justified."

The appeals were against sentences of detention in a young offender institution imposed by Judge Tucker, QC at Southampton Crown Court in July on pleas of guilty and commitments for sentence (without reference to breaches of probation and offences committed while on bail), of 18 months on Kevin John Muswell, aged 20, for 11 burglaries, one attempted burglary and three thefts; of three years on Nan Blackburn, aged 19, for 17 burglaries, three attempted bur-

glaries, three thefts and one offence of going equipped for burglary; of 15 months and one week on James Moore, aged 20, for seven burglaries, four thefts and two offences of handling stolen goods; and of 12 months on David Marshall, aged 21, for nine burglaries, three thefts and one offence of going equipped for burglary.

On appeal the court's judgment was that the sentences in the present case were too severe and they were reduced. Muswell's to 15 months, Blackburn's to 30 months, Moore's to 12 months and Marshall's to nine months.

Mr Ashley Ailes, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals for the appellants; Mr David C. Jenkins for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the appeal raised yet

another problem concerning the proper construction of section 123(3).

In the case of each appellant the judge was satisfied that the circumstances were such that, if he had been aged over 21 years, a prison sentence would have been appropriate and that he was wrong to conclude that any of the appellants was qualified for a custodial sentence because he was convicted of at least one offence which was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified. He said nothing about qualification under paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (4A).

It was correctly accepted that a prison sentence would have been appropriate for each appellant if he had been over 21 years, but it was argued that the judge was wrong to conclude that any of the appellants was qualified for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c).

It was established beyond contradiction that, when considering paragraph (c), the court was not to take into account the overall view of the defendant's criminality and achieve a sentence which properly reflected all the relevant features. Unless there was at least one offence of sufficient seriousness, the offender did not qualify for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c).

The courts had noted different anomalies but that did not affect the proper construction of the paragraph. The offender did not qualify for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c) if he was convicted of a non-custodial sentence for an offence which was not so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified.

Among the many features which any court was likely to consider were the extent to which the particular burglary was planned or premeditated, the numbers involved in it, whether it was committed by day or by night and whether any person was or might have been at home or might have witnessed any part of the burglary.

Sometimes daytime burglaries were committed following careful planning with the object of avoiding discovery and therefore, although not committed at night, the aggravating feature of premeditation was present.

Within the house, the activities of the burglar were of great significance. Questions of disturbance, ransacking, vandalism, fouling and hooliganism were all relevant; so, too, was the amount of loss, both in monetary and personal terms, of any objects stolen.

The effect of the burglary on the victim and family was important. It was sometimes overlooked that dwelling house burglary was in a very real sense an offence against the person as well as an offence of dishonesty. Even without direct personal injury the victims of burglaries could suffer anxiety and distress which might last for many years and far outweighed the value of the goods actually stolen.

Although dwelling house burglary was always a serious offence it was not always so serious that a non-custodial sentence could not be justified. An example would be a sneak thief walking past an open door who put his hand inside, took a £5 note or some food.

For the purposes of paragraph (c) it could not be assumed that any dwelling house burglary was an offence which automatically required a custodial sentence. Each offence had to be judged individually. The value was not a guide to the seriousness of the offence but a factor to distinguish between different degrees of seriousness.

The court on appeal would not readily interfere with the conclusion of the trial judge that a particular dwelling house burglary was so serious that a non-custodial sentence for it could not be justified.

In the present case the judge expressly identified the offences which he considered were sufficiently serious to bring paragraph (c) into operation. Their Lordships had considered the detailed facts of the relevant counts and agreed with and accepted the judge's reasoning.

A more difficult and important problem concerning the proper construction of section 123(3) arose from Mr Ailes' argument that, even assuming each appellant qualified for a custodial sentence under paragraph (c), the court's jurisdiction to pass a custodial sentence was limited to those individual offences which qualified for that purpose so that custodial sentences, whether consecutive or concurrent, for offences which did not qualify should not have been passed in this case.

That submission directly concerned all the offences of theft, some of the dwelling house burglaries and also sentences for offences which were originally dealt with by way of probation orders and conditional discharge. As consecutive sentences had been passed on each appellant for "non-qualifying" offences, the argument was of practical importance to them.

Their Lordships' attention had been drawn to *R v McCarroll* (1990) Crim LR 660 where the court, after deciding that only one offence of robbery qualified for the purpose of paragraph (c), concluded that the appropriate course for the remaining offences would be to impose no separate penalty. That decision was followed in *R v Marsden* (1990) Crim LR 749.

The argument was, accordingly, that the appropriate order for all the appellants' offences which did not individually qualify for a custodial penalty should be no separate penalty.

The true construction of paragraph (c) and whether an individual qualified within it for a custodial sentence had revealed a number of anomalies and, if the present appellants' submissions were correct, the result would be increased confusion and, indeed, absurdity.

The key to the true construction of section 123 was the crucial distinction to be drawn between the stringent tests which had to be applied before any of the criteria in subsection (4A) were established and the consequences which followed once one of those criteria had been established.

The court was precluded from passing a custodial sentence unless satisfied that a sentence of imprisonment would be

passed on an offender aged over 21 and that the particular offender under 21 qualified for a custodial sentence.

The section then defined the circumstances in which the offender so qualified. Unless he did qualify, a custodial sentence could not be passed.

However, the section was not drafted in such a way that it precluded the passing of custodial sentences for offences which would not themselves satisfy paragraph (c).

In particular, paragraphs (a) and (b) did not impose any such restriction. Once it was established that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence by reason of one or other of the statutory criteria, there was no further restriction in section 123.

Nothing in section 123(4)(1A) or (1B) led their Lordships to a different construction of section 123(3).

In *McCarroll* the court's attention was focused on the proper construction of paragraph (c) rather than on the quite separate question of the consequences which flowed once paragraph (c) had been established. In those circumstances the Lordships declined to follow *McCarroll* and *Marsden* which followed it.

Accordingly, their Lordships concluded that the correct approach to questions of sentence in cases involving young offenders was that the court must not pass a custodial sentence unless it was first satisfied that the offender qualified for a custodial sentence.

If, having considered the appropriate tests, the court concluded that he did qualify, then custodial sentences could be passed, if otherwise appropriate, for offences which were not in themselves individually so serious that a non-custodial sentence would not otherwise be justified.

In principle, therefore, that argument for the appellants also failed.

Nothing in the judgment was to be taken to undermine two principles.

First, the sentencing court had to be astute to ensure that, when consecutive sentences were appropriate in the case of young offenders, the total sentence was not excessive.

Further, and in particular, where a single indictment contained a number of counts, if the young offender qualified for a custodial sentence only because one or more of his offences came within paragraph (c), the sentencing court when sentencing for other offences should ask itself whether a consecutive sentence for any of those offences was really required, bearing in mind that, but for the qualifying offences, no custodial sentence of any sort could have been imposed.

The emphasis in cases involving young offenders now was that sentences should be kept to the absolute minimum necessary. The total sentences on the appellants were somewhat too severe.

Solicitors: CPS, Southampton.

Delay meant committal was abuse

Regina v Telford Justices, Ex parte Badham
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Lord Justice Mann and Mr Justice Otton

[Judgment December 21]

Examining justices had power, as part of their inherent jurisdiction, to enquire into whether the initiation of the process of committal was an abuse of process and where such a question was raised by reason of lapse of time they should have asked whether a fair trial would be possible.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment granting an order prohibiting the Telford Justices from further proceedings with the committal proceedings of Piers Badham on a charge of

rape under section (1) of the Sexual Offences Act 1976.

Mr Brian Escott Cox and Mr Balbir Singh for the applicant; Mr Andrew Collins, QC and Mr Frank Chapman for the prosecution.

LORD JUSTICE MANN, delivering the judgment of the court, said that a question of abuse was one which was within the ability of examining justices to decide. A plea of abuse should be open to the accused subject at the earliest opportunity. It was the duty of any court, be that court superior or inferior, to protect its process from abuse.

The alleged offence was committed on a day unknown between February 15, 1973 and February 14, 1974. Complaint was made in mid-September 1988.

Telford Justices considered the question of abuse of process but decided that as, for various reasons, the delay was justifiable there was no abuse of process.

A lapse of time for which the prosecuting authorities were not to blame could be such that an accused could be heard to say that a fair trial was no longer possible and the committal proceedings would therefore be an abuse of process.

Their Lordships concluded that a fair trial would not now be possible. The justices were wrong in focusing upon the justifiability of delaying the complaint. They should have asked whether a fair trial would now be possible.

Solicitors: Murria, Birmingham; CPS, HQ.

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هكذا من الأصل

Staff come first in tough times

In a recession, writes Edward Fennell, saving money by cutting jobs is a recipe for future failure

Now the season of goodwill is finished, can we expect to see a flurry of redundancies reported in the legal press? During the autumn and early winter there was a small but steady stream of people made redundant, even by some of the biggest firms, and when business resumes tomorrow the knives may be out again to cut costs.

A law firm's biggest asset, however, is its staff and cuts made here may backfire. Large firms that have made staff redundant and suffered the accompanying bad publicity have done significant long-term damage to their external image as well as deflating employees' morale. Handling redundancies is perhaps the most difficult issue confronting a managing partner.

The correct response to recession for law firms, according to *Managing Through a Recession*, just published by Hodgart Temporal & Company, may be to avoid redundancies at all costs, or at least until every other avenue has been explored. Getting rid of lawyers or experienced support staff can be an



Lawyer with a caution: staff are the biggest asset and redundancies can backfire, David Temporal says

attractive short-term measure, but it obscures the medium-term to longer-term development issues. Through a careful analysis of the options, *Managing Through a Recession* shows how harmful staff cuts are. It is important, for example, to ensure that by shedding staff you are not cutting off future fees. "Firing senior assistants can produce cost savings, but it may have an adverse impact on profitability and on management shortly after," David Temporal, the author, says. It is also important to

ensure that, before losing support staff, the management has weighed up the consequences. "Make sure the combination of workload and processes ensure that you do not lose an important competitive weapon. Study existing workloads, study the way work gets done and think about these in terms of the reaction plan," Mr Temporal says.

The book's real thrust is that plenty of things can be cut without affecting the engine room and essential support services that drive the firm along. For example, cutting lunches and social events is preferable to dropping publications, and to cut training is to cut your own throat.

However, Mr Temporal suggests that in a grave emergency some sacred cows may have to be slaughtered, and those tend primarily to affect partners' interests.

Arguing that a cost reduction exercise is the best opportunity to "clear out past mistakes," Mr Temporal insists the partners must not be left out of the exercise. He

Self-sacrifice by partners would probably do more than anything else to raise morale. Mr Temporal says: "Professional firms operate well only when there is a high degree of trust, both ways, between partners and staff. Insecurity arising from redundancy can shatter this trust overnight and it will not be quickly rebuilt."

Copies of *Managing Through a Recession* are obtainable from Hodgart Temporal & Company, 081-328 9873.

say: "Nothing is worse for morale than for a firm to fire a number of assistants but retain partners whose performance is no better or even worse. Cynicism sweeps through a firm when this occurs."

The politics of this are sensitive and also highlight one of the most complex issues underlying the modern large law firm - mainly, whose firm it is and in whose interest should it be run?

The simplistic answer is that the firm belongs to those partners who own the equity and therefore their interests must be protected above all else. Yet, where well-established firms are concerned, partners are also temporary custodians who have a responsibility to the workforce in general and, in particular, to those fee-earners who are investing their future ambitions in the firm. There is more to a firm than its partnership and to slice off its future prospects in the interests of preserving partners' income is hardly the mark of good stewardship.

Self-sacrifice by partners would probably do more than anything else to raise morale. Mr Temporal says: "Professional firms operate well only when there is a high degree of trust, both ways, between partners and staff. Insecurity arising from redundancy can shatter this trust overnight and it will not be quickly rebuilt."

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INNS AND OUTS

Order in the law

THOSE concerned with the law, of all people, are among those most in need of new year resolutions. All too often, good intentions fail to last more than a few hours. Take Sir Leon Brittan's resolution that he would clear the police and magistrates' court cells of prisoners by new year 1994. He managed it, but within two days the prisoners were back.

The number is now about 1,000, yet nobody seems to take the present home secretary to task. Perhaps the home secretary's resolution should be to empty the cells and keep them out. To this end he could free the requisite number of non-violent prisoners a week or so early. If they have not been reformed with a week of their sentences to go, they never will be.

Next, the judges in the Court of Appeal's Criminal Division could resolve to listen to the appeal of the Birmingham Six rather than merely hear it. If the appeal is granted, Lord Denning's resolution might be only to think - and not say - that it was better they be kept in custody because of the damage their release did to the public's confidence in the police and the judicial process.

Even the humblest lawyers and clerks should be making resolutions. Not to tell lies would be a start. How often have clients been told "the papers are with counsel" when they are still in the corner where the client left them?

How often have solicitors been told "he's reading them now"? How often have they been told at 6pm the day before the case that "he is part heard" in Manchester, but I have a very good man who can take the case, who has just had a big win in Chelmsford, when this means a lucrative brief has suddenly come to the barrister instructed and the big win was when the main prosecution witness failed to appear and the Crown Prosecution Service offered no evidence?

In court advocates could resolve to make themselves understood to the clients and

relatives at the back of the court and not to talk in shorthand and cyphers to the bench, who should no longer be regarded as ships urged "to take a certain course".

Probation officers should resolve not to write unintelligible reports. "He is living in a supportive rural environment" may sound better than "he is living in Wales in a tent with his girlfriend". Magistrates could resolve to forgo their coffee breaks, which cost hundreds of thousands of pounds a year in wasted legal aid fees.

Let us get back to the Sixties situation when a man could be consecutively charged, committed and acquitted four

I only came in for Christmas dinner I planned to be out for Hogmanay



times in a year at Inner London Sessions rather than count himself lucky if one case is heard within a year.

The Law Society and the Bar Council could resolve to stop bickering over rights of audience and pull together to ensure that the profession really does serve the public.

The Lord Chancellor's resolutions must already be piling up, poor man. Perhaps he should ensure that access to all courts is available to all people, irrespective of wealth, so the phrase "fully funded legal aid" ceases to be an oxymoron ranking alongside "military intelligence". All the profession should make this resolution. Then, perhaps a women in southeast London will not have to approach 27 lawyers to find one to take her domestic violence case on legal aid.

JAMES MORTON
The author is editor of the New Law Journal.

Helping polluters to clean up their act

THE Environmental Protection Bill will establish a pollution-policing system under the eye of bodies such as the National Rivers Authority. The Bill will compel anyone proposing to operate certain processes to be authorised by the relevant authority. The authorisation may be subject to conditions and any breach could result in criminal prosecution.

However, an alternative to this reliance on authorities wielding the stick of criminal sanctions is the adoption of economic methods, such as pollution charges or taxes, or the more radical approach of creating property rights in the environment, using tradable "pollution credits".

This is best illustrated by a type of emission control of

certain pollutants used in the United States. There, the right to emit a stated amount of pollution into the atmosphere has, over the years, been created as a commodity and is traded in much the same way as any other commodity.

The regulatory body, the Environmental Protection Agency, initially fixed limits on the emission of pollution and these limits varied according to the type of industry and emissions involved. However, critics complained that these standards were blocking the economic growth of companies that had reached their allowed level of pollution. It was also felt that industries had no incentive to spend money to reduce pollution levels further than their limit.

To combat these disadvantages, a scheme was developed to set emission levels in relation to overall emissions, not to emissions from individual sites. Credits were given whenever a company's emissions were below certain limits.

As a result, a common currency has evolved, known as emission reduction credits. The creation and trading in these credits is regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Originally, the creation of a "bubble" under which credits could be offset against higher pollution levels elsewhere, was limited to sites in common ownership.

If a company owned several sites emitting excess levels of waste, one site could be adapted to create a large

enough reduction in emissions to offset against the others, saving the expenditure needed to reduce the levels of pollution from all sites.

The bubble principle has been extended so that it now applies to sites throughout the US, regardless of ownership, and a market for the trading of credits has developed.

Credits can be used, sold, stored or even banked, depending on the owner's economic needs and future prospects. Market brokers match companies that have credits to sell with those that need to buy.

Despite being viewed as a way of achieving environmental controls more rapidly and cost-effectively than the traditional "command and control" approach, this meth-

od of enforcement is, not surprisingly, controversial. Although its advantages include lowering the cost of pollution controls, some environmentalists have attacked the scheme on the grounds that it condones continued pollution by permitting the purchase of the right to pollute.

Some environmentalists also argue that an ability to reduce pollution should not become the subject of speculation, but instead should always be utilised in the fight against the destruction of the environment.

Supporters, however, insist that the credit trading system benefits both industry and the environment. Although it seems most unlikely that a similar system will be ad-

opted in Britain in the near future, the pace of environmental change indicates that the prospect may not be ruled out in the long run.

The Environmental Protection Bill contemplates overall limits to emissions and reserves the government's right to make national quotas for total releases.

If pollution controls were created in Britain and a US-style market developed, it is possible the scheme for regulation of emissions would require a regulatory scheme if these "rights to pollute" were regarded as investments under the Financial Services Act.

PAUL GRIFFIN
The author is a partner with the solicitors Denton, Hall, Bargin & Warrens.

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| 1710 | | | | | | | | | | 1709 | | | | | | | | | | 1708 | | | | | | | | | | 1707 | | | | | | | | | | 1706 | | | | | | | | | | 1705 | | | | | | | | | | 1704 | | | | | | | | | | 1703 | | | | | | | | | | 1702 | | | | | | | | | | 1701 | | | | | | | | | | 1700 | | | | | | | | | | 1699 | | | | | | | | | | 1698 | | | | | | | | | | 1697 | | | | | | | | | | 1696 | | | | | | | | | | 1695 | | | | | | | | | | 1694 | | | | | | | | | | 1693 | | | | | | | | | | 1692 | | | | | | | | | | 1691 | | | | | | | | | | 1690 | | | | | | | | | | 1689 | | | | | | | | | | 1688 | | | | | | | | | | 1687 | | | | | | | | | | 1686 | | | | | | | | | | 1685 | | | | | | | | | | 1684 | | | | | | | | | | 1683 | | | | | | | | | | 1682 | | | | | | | | | | 1681 | | | | | | | | | | 1680 | | | | | | | | | | 1679 | | | | | | | | | | 1678 | | | | | | | | | | 1677 | | | | | | | | | | 1676 | | | | | | | | | | 1675 | | | | | | | | | | 1674 | | | | | | | | | | 1673 | | | | | | | | | | 1672 | | | | | | | | | | 1671 | | | | | | | | | | 1670 | | | | | | | | | | 1669 | | | | | | | | | | 1668 | | | | | | | | | | 1667 | | | | | | | | | | 1666 | | | | | | | | | | 1665 | | | | | | | | | | 1664 | | | | | | | | | | 1663 | | | | | | | | | | 1662 | | | | | | | | | | 1661 | | | | | | | | | | 1660 | | | | | | | | | | 1659 | | | | | | | | | | 1658 | | | | | | | | | | 1657 | | | | | | | | | | 1656 | | | | | | | | | | 1655 | | | | | | | | | | 1654 | | | | | | | | | | 1653 | | | | | | | | | | 1652 | | | | | | | | | | 1651 | | | | | | | | | | 1650 | | | | | | | | | | 1649 | | | | | | | | | | 1648 | | | | | | | | | | 1647 | | | | | | | | | | 1646 | | | | | | | | | | 1645 | | | | | | | | | | 1644 | | | | | | | | | | 1643 | | | | | | | | | | 1642 | | | | | | | | | | 1641 | | | | | | | | | | 1640 | | | | | | | | | | 1639 | | | | | | | | | | 1638 | | | | | | | | | | 1637 | | | | | | | | | | 1636 | | | | | | | | | | 1635 | | | | | | | | | | 1634 | | | | | | | | | | 1633 | | | | | | | | | | 1632 | | | | | | | | | | 1631 | | | | | | | | | | 1630 | | | | | | | | | | 1629 | | | | | | | | | | 1628 | | | | | | | | | | 1627 | | | | | | | | | | 1626 | | | | | | | | | | 1625 | | | | | | | | | | 1624 | | | | | | | | | | 1623 | | | | | | | | | | 1622 | | | | | | | | | | 1621 | | | | | | | | | | 1620 | | | | | | | | | | 1619 | | | | | | | | | | 1618 | | | | | | | | | | 1617 | | | | | | | | | | 1616 | | | | | | | | | | 1615 | | | | | | | | | | 1614 | | | | | | | | | | 1613 | | | | | | | | | | 1612 | | | | | | | | | | 1611 | | | | | | | | | | 1610 | | | | | | | | | | 1609 | | | | | | | | | | 1608 | | | | | | | | | | 1607 | | | | | | | | | | 1606 | | | | | | | | | | 1605 | | | | | | | | | | 1604 | | | | | | | | | | 1603 | | | | | | | | | | 1602 | | | | | | | | | | 1601 | | | | | | | | | | 1600 | | | | | | | | | | 1599 | | | | | | | | | | 1598 | | | | | | | | | | 1597 | | | | | | | | | | 1596 | | | | | | | | | | 1595 | | | | | | | | | | 1594 | | | | | | | | | | 1593 | | | | | | | | | | 1592 | | | | | | | | | | 1591 | | | | | | | | | | 1590 | | | | | | | | | | 1589 | | | | | | | | | | 1588 | | | | | | | | | | 1587 | | | | | | | | | | 1586 | | | | | | | | | | 1585 | | | | | | | | | | 1584 | | | | | | | | | | 1583 | | | | | | | | | | 1582 | | | | | | | | | | 1581 | | | | | | | | | | 1580 | | | | | | | | | | 1579 | | | | | | | | | | 1578 | | | | | | | | | | 1577 | | | | | | | | | | 1576 | | | | | | | | | | 1575 | | | | | | | | | | 1574 | | | | | | | | | | 1573 | | | | | | | | | | 1572 | | | | | | | | | | 1571 | | | | | | | | | | 1570 | | | | | | | | | | 1569 | | | | | | | | | | 1568 | | | | | | | | | | 1567 | | | | | | | | | | 1566 | | | | | | | | | | 1565 | | | | | | | | | | 1564 | | | | | | | | | | 1563 | | | | | | | | | | 1562 | | | | | | | | | | 1561 | | | | | | | | | | 1560 | | | | | | | | | | 1559 | | | | | | | | | | 1558 | | | | | | | | | | 1557 | | | | | | | | | | 1556 | | | | | | | | | | 1555 | | | | | | | | | | 1554 | | | | | | | | | | 1553 | | | | | | | | | | 1552 | | | | | | | | | | 1551 | | | | | | | | | | 1550 | | | | | | | | | | 1549 | | | | | | | | | | 1548 | | | | | | | | | | 1547 | | | | | | | | | | 1546 | | | | | | | | | | 1545 | | | | | | | | | | 1544 | | | | | | | | | | 1543 | | | | | | | | | | 1542 | | | | | | | | | | 1541 | | | | | | | | | | 1540 | | | | | | | | | | 1539 | | | | | | | | | | 1538 | | | | | | | | | | 1537 | | | | | | | | | | 1536 | | | | | | | | | | 1535 | | | | | | | | | | 1534 | | | | | | | | | | 1533 | | | | | | | | | | 1532 | | | | | | | | | | 1531 | | | | | | | | | | 1530 | | | | | | | | | | 1529 | | | | | | | | | | 1528 | | | | | | | | | | 1527 | | | | | | | | | | 1526 | | | | | | | | | | 1525 | | | | | | | | | | 1524 | | | | | | | | | | 1523 | | | | | | | | | | 1522 | | | | | | | | | | 1521 | | | | | | | | | | 1520 | | | | | | | | | | 1519 | | | | | | | | | | 1518 | | | | | | | | | | 1517 | | | | | | | | | | 1516 | | | | | | | | | | 1515 | | | | | | | | | | 1514 | | | | | | | | | | 1513 | | | | | | | | | | 1512 | | | | | | | | | | 1511 | | | | | | | | | | 1510 | | | | | | | | | | 1509 | | | | | | | | | | 1508 | | | | | | | | | | 1507 | | | | | | | | | | 1506 | | | | | | | | | | 1505 | | | | | | | | | | 1504 | | | | | | | | | | 1503 | | | | | | | | | | 1502 | | | | | | | | | | 1501 | | | | | | | | | | 1500 | | | | | | | | | | 1499 | | | | | | | | | | 1498 | | | | | | | | | | 1497 | | | | | | | | | | 1496 | | | | | | | | | | 1495 | | | | | | | | | | 1494 | | | | | | | | | | 1493 | | | | | | | | | | 1492 | | | | | | | | | | 1491 | | | | | | | | | | 1490 | | | | | | | | | | 1489 | | | | | | | | | | 1488 | | | | | | | | | | 1487 | | | | | | | | | | 1486 | | | | | | | | | | 1485 | | | | | | | | | | 1484 | | | | | | | | | | 1483 | | | | | | | | | | 1482 | | | | | | | | | | 1481 | | | | | | | | | | 1480 | | | | | | | | | | 1479 | | | | | | | | | | 1478 | | | | | | | | | | 1477 | | | | | | | | | | 1476 | | | | | | | | | | 1475 | | | | | | | | | | 1474 | | | | | | | | | | 1473 | | | | | | | | | | 1472 | | | | | | | | | | 1471 | | | | | | | | | | 1470 | | | | | | | | | | 1469 | | | | | | | | | | 1468 | | | | | | | | | | 1467 | | | | | | | | | | 1466 | | | | | | | | | | 1465 | | | | | | | | | | 1464 | | | | | | | | | | 1463 | | | | | | | | | | 1462 | | | | | | | | | | 1461 | | | | | | | | | | 1460 | | | | | | | | | | 1459 | | | | | | | | | | 1458 | | | | | | | | | | 1457 | | | | | | | | | | 1456 | | | | | | | | | | 1455 | | | | | | | | | | 1454 | | | | | | | | | | 1453 | | | | | | | | | | 1452 | | | | | | | | | | 1451 | | | | | | | | | | 1450 | | | | | | | | | | 1449 | | | | | | | | | | 1448 | | | | | | | | | | 1447 | | | | | | | | | | 1446 | | | | | | | | | | 1445 | | | | | | | | | | 1444 | | | | | | | | | | 1443 | | | | | | | | | | 1442 | | | | | | | | | | 1441 | | | | | | | | | | 1440 | | | | | | | | | | 1439 | | | | | | | | | | 1438 | | | | | | | | | | 1437 | | | | | | | | | | 1436 | | | | | | | | | | 1435 | | | | | | | | | | 1434 | | | | | | | | | | 1433 | | | | | | | | | | 1432 | | | | | | | | | | 1431 | | | | | | | | | | 1430 | | | | | | | | | | 1429 | | | | | | | | | | 1428 | | | | | | | | | | 1427 | | | | | | | | | | 1426 | | | | | | | | | | 1425 | | | | | | | | | | 1424 | | | | | | | | | | 1423 | | | | | | | | | | 1422 | | | | | | | | | | 1421 | | | | | | | | | | 1420 | | | | | | | | | | 1419 | | | | | | | | | | 1418 | | | | | | | | | | 1417 | | | | | | | | | | 1416 | | | | | | | | | | 1415 | | | | | | | | | | 1414 | | | | | | | | | | 1413 | | | | | | | | | | 1412 | | | | | | | | | | 1411 | | | | | | | | | | 1410 | | | | | | | | | | 1409 | | | | | | | | | | 1408 | | | | | | | | | | 1407 | | | | | | | | | | 1406 | | | | | | | | | | 1405 | | | | | | | | | | 1404 | | | | | | | | | | 1403 | | | | | | | | | | 1402 | | | | | | | | | | 1401 | | | | | | | | | | 1400 | | | | | | | | | | 1399 | | | | | | | | | | 1398 | | | | | | | | | | 1397 | | | | | | | | | | 1396 | | | | | | | | | | 1395 | | | | | | | | | | 1394 | | | | | | | | | | 1393 | | | | | | | | | | 1392 | | | | | | | | | | 1391 | | | | | | | | | | 1390 | | | | | | | | | | 1389 | | | | | | | | | | 1388 | | | | | | | | | | 1387 | | | | | | | | | | 1386 | | | | | | | | | | 1385 | | | | | | | | | | 1384 | | | | | | | | | | 1383 | | | | | | | | | | 1382 | | | | | | | | | | 1381 | | | | | | | | | | 1380 | | | | | | | | | | 1379 | | | | | | | | | | 1378 | | | | | | | | | | 1377 | | | | | | | | | | 1376 | | | | | | | | | | 1375 | | | | | | | | | | 1374 | | | | | | | | | | 1373 | | | | | | | | | | 1372 | | | | | | | | | | 1371 | | | | | | | | | | 1370 | | | | | | | | | | 1369 | | | | | | | | | | 1368 | | | | | | | | | | 1367 | | | | | | | | | | 1366 | | | | | | | | | | 1365 | | | | | | | | | | 1364 | | | | | | | | | | 1363 | | | | | | | | | | 1362 | | | | | | | | | | 1361 | | | | | | | | | | 1360 | | | | | | | | | | 1359 | | | | | | | | | | 1358 | | | | | | | | | | 1357 | | | | | | | | | | 1356 | | | | | | | | | | 1355 | | | | | | | | | | 1354 | | | | | | | | | | 1353 | | | | | | | | | | 1352 | | | | | | | | | | 1351 | | | | | | | | | | 1350 | | | | | | | | | | 1349 | | | | | | | | | | 1348 | | | | | | | | | | 1347 | | | | | | | | | | 1346 | | | | | | | | | | 1345 | | | | | | | | | | 1344 | | | | | | | | | | 1343 | | | | | | | | | | 1342 | | | | | | | | | | 1341 | | | | | | | | | | 1340 | | | | | | | | | | 1339 | | | | | | | | | | 1338 | | | | | | | | | | 1337 | | | | | | | | | | 1336 | | | | | | | | | | 1335 | | | | | | | | | | 1334 | | | | | | | | | | 1333 | | | | | | | | | | 1332 | | | | | | | | | | 1331 | | | | | | | | | | 1330 | | | | | | | | | | 1329 | | | | | | | | | | 1328 | | | | | | | | | | 1327 | | | | | | | | | | 1326 | | | | | | | | | | 1325 | | | | | | | | | | 1324 | | | | | | | | | | 1323 | | | | | | | | | | 1322 | | | | | | | | | | 1321 | | | | | | | | | | 1320 | | | | | | | | | | 1319 | | | | | | | | | | 1318 | | | | | | | | | | 1317 | | | | | | | | | | 1316 | | | | | | | | | | 1315 | | | | | | | | | | 1314 | | | | | | | | | | 1313 | | | | | | | | | | 1312 | | | | | | | | | | 1311 | | | | | | | | | | 1310 | | | | | | | | | | 1309 | | | | | | | | | | 1308 | | | | | | | | | | 1307 | | | | | | | | | | 1306 | | | | | | | | | | 1305 | | | | | | | | | | 1304 | | | | | | | | | | 1303 | | | | | | | | | | 1302 | | | | | | | | | | 1301 | | | | | | | | | | 1300 | | | | | | | | | | 1299 | | | | | | | | | | 1298 | | | | | | | | | | 1297 | | | | | | | | | | 1296 | | | | | | | | | | 1295 | | | | | | | | | | 1294 | | | | | | | | | | 1293 | | | | | | | | | | 1292 | | | | | | | | | | 1291 | | | | | | | | | | 1290 | | | | | | | | | | 1289 | | | | | | | | | | 1288 | | | | | | | | | | 1287 | | | | | | | | | | 1286 | | | | | | | | | | 1285 | | | | | | | | | | 1284 | | | | | | | | | | 1283 | | | | | | | | | | 1282 | | | | | | | | | | 1281 | | | | | | | | | | 1280 | | | | | | | | | | 1279 | | | | | | | | | | 1278 | | | | | | | | | | 1277 | | | | | | | | | | 1276 | | | | | | | | | | 1275 | | | | | | | | | | 1274 | | | | | | | | | | 1273 | | | | | | | | | | 1272 | | | | | | | | | | 1271 | | | | | | | | | 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| 1230 | | | | | | | | | | 1229 | | | | | | | | | | 1228 | | | | | | | | | | 1227 | | | | | | | | | | 1226 | | | | | | | | | | 1225 | | | | | | | | | | 1224 | | | | | | | | | | 1223 | | | | | | | | | | 1222 | | | | | | | | | | 1221 | | | | | | | | | | 1220 | | | | | | | | | | 1219 | | | | | | | | | | 1218 | | | | | | | | | | 1217 | | | | | | | | | | 1216 | | | | | | | | | | 1215 | | | | | | | | | | 1214 | | | | | | | | | | 1213 | | | | | | | | | | 1212 | | | | | | | | | | 1211 | | | | | | | | | | 1210 | | | | | | | | | | 1209 | | | | | | | | | | 1208 | | | | | | | | | | 1207 | | | | | | | | | | 1206 | | | | | | | | | | 1205 | | | | | | | | | | 1204 | | | | | | | | | | 1203 | | | | | | | | | | 1202 | | | | | | | | | | 1201 | | | | | | | | | | 1200 | | | | | | | | | | 1199 | | | | | | | | | | 1198 | | | | | | | | | | 1197 | | | | | | | | | | 1196 | | | | | | | | | | 1195 | | | | | | | | | | 1194 | | | | | | | | | | 1193 | | | | | | | | | | 1192 | | | | | | | | | | 1191 | | | | | | | | | | 1190 | | | | | | | | | | 1189 | | | | | | | | | | 1188 | | | | | | | | | | 1187 | | | | | | | | | | 1186 | | | | | | | | | | 1185 | | | | | | | | | | 1184 | | | | | | | | | | 1183 | | | | | | | | | | 1182 | | | | | | | | | | 1181 | | | | | | | | | | 1180 | | | | | | | | | | 1179 | | | | | | | | | | 1178 | | | | | | | | | | 1177 | | | | | | | | | | 1176 | | | | | | | | | | 1175 | | | | | | | | | | 1174 | | | | | | | | | | 1173 | | | | | | | | | | 1172 | | | | | | | | | | 1171 | | | | | | | | | | 1170 | | | | | | | | | | 1169 | | | | | | | | | | 1168 | | | | | | | | | | 1167 | | | | | | | | | | 1166 | | | | | | | | | | 1165 | | | | | | | | | | 1164 | | | | | | | | | | 1163 | | | | | | | | | | 1162 | | | | | | | | | | 1161 | | | | | | | | | | 1160 | | | | | | | | | | 1159 | | | | | | | | | | 1158 | | | | | | | | | | 1157 | | | | | | | | | | 1156 | | | | | | | | | | 1155 | | | | | | | | | | 1154 | | | | | | | | | | 1153 | | | | | | | | | | 1152 | | | | | | | | | | 1151 | | | | | | | | | 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| 1070 | | | | | | | | | | 1069 | | | | | | | | | | 1068 | | | | | | | | | | 1067 | | | | | | | | | | 1066 | | | | | | | | | | 1065 | | | | | | | | | | 1064 | | | | | | | | | | 1063 | | | | | | | | | | 1062 | | | | | | | | | | 1061 | | | | | | | | | | 1060 | | | | | | | | | | 1059 | | | | | | | | | | 1058 | | | | | | | | | | 1057 | | | | | | | | | | 1056 | | | | | | | | | | 1055 | | | | | | | | | | 1054 | | | | | | | | | | 1053 | | | | | | | | | | 1052 | | | | | | | | | | 1051 | | | | | | | | | | 1050 | | | | | | | | | | 1049 | | | | | | | | | | 1048 | | | | | | | | | | 1047 | | | | | | | | | | 1046 | | | | | | | | | | 1045 | | | | | | | | | | 1044 | | | | | | | | | | 1043 | | | | | | | | | | 1042 | | | | | | | | | | 1041 | | | | | | | | | | 1040 | | | | | | | | | | 1039 | | | | | | | | | |
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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

| No. | Company | Group | Gain or Loss |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1 | Orsted Instruments | Electronics | |
| 2 | Mediant | Electronics | |
| 3 | Hyden Mordell | Industrial S-R | |
| 4 | Park Foods | Food | |
| 5 | Town Centre | Property | |
| 6 | Cherwell Cars | Industrial A-D | |
| 7 | Ward Group | Building Roads | |
| 8 | Headman | Shoes, Leather | |
| 9 | Harris (Philip) | Industrial S-R | |
| 10 | James Street | Electronics | |
| 11 | Wyndham Reg | Industrial S-R | |
| 12 | Kingsley (as) | Drugs, Stores | |
| 13 | Pennington | Motor, Aircraft | |
| 14 | Smith (as) | Industrial S-R | |
| 15 | Orsted | Building Roads | |
| 16 | Brewery | Industrial A-D | |
| 17 | Marshall | Building Roads | |
| 18 | Geared Net | Bank, Discount | |
| 19 | Charles Nicholas | Property | |
| 20 | Morris (John) | Drugs, Stores | |
| 21 | Robertson | Industrial L-R | |
| 22 | Lockers | Motor, Aircraft | |
| 23 | Low Ltd | Industrial L-R | |
| 24 | Orsted | Transport | |
| 25 | Orsted | Electronics | |
| 26 | Orsted & Pines | Transport | |
| 27 | Linton Park | Industrial L-R | |
| 28 | Orsted | Textile | |
| 29 | Orsted | Leisure | |
| 30 | Orsted | Property | |
| 31 | Orsted | Building Roads | |
| 32 | Orsted | Electronics | |
| 33 | Young 'A' | Breweries | |
| 34 | Enterprise (as) | Oil Gas | |
| 35 | Williams (as) | Industrial S-R | |
| 36 | Taco | Industrial S-R | |
| 37 | Howard Ridge | Building Roads | |
| 38 | Orsted | Property | |
| 39 | Smith David | Paper Print Adv | |
| 40 | Orsted | Property | |
| 41 | Wingway G (as) | Building Roads | |
| 42 | Orsted | Industrial S-R | |
| 43 | Orsted | Building Roads | |
| 44 | Worley | Industrial S-R | |

Please take into account any minus signs

| Weekly Dividend | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper. | | | | | | |
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | | | |

Five readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss Dinah Molloy, of Barnet, Herts, Mr Andrew Fraser, of Worthing, West Sussex, Mrs Mary Hopson, of Ashted, Surrey, Mr Barry Cleaves, of Wells, Somerset, and Mr Charles Foster Lupton, of Southgate, north London, each receive £400.

BRITISH FUNDS

| 1989 | High | Low | Stock | Price | Change | % | Div | Yield |
|---------------------------|------|-----|-------|-------|--------|------|------|-------|
| SHORTS (Under Five Years) | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 5 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 6 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 7 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 8 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 10 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 11 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 12 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 13 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 14 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 15 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 16 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 18 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 19 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 21 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 22 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 23 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 24 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 25 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 26 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 27 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 28 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 29 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 31 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 33 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 34 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 35 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 36 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 37 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 38 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 39 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 40 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 41 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 42 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 43 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 44 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 45 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 46 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 47 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 48 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 49 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 50 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 51 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 52 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 53 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 54 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 55 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 56 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 57 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 58 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 59 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 60 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 61 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 62 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 63 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 64 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 65 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 66 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 67 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 68 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 69 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 70 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 71 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 72 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 73 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 74 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 75 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 76 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 77 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 78 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 79 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 80 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 81 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 82 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 83 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 84 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 85 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 86 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 87 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 88 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 89 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 90 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 91 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 92 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 93 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 94 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 95 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 96 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 97 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 98 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 99 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 100 | 100 | 95 | 100 | 95 | -5 | -5.0 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------|------|------|------|---|-------|-------|
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 8.71 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.14 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.14 | 10.00 |
| 112% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | - | 12.7 | 10.00 |
| 112% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | - | 12.7 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 8.71 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 8.71 | 10.00 |
| 111% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | - | 12.1 | 11.00 |
| 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | - | 11.77 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 8.71 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88% | 95% | 100% | 80% | - | 10.4 | 10.00 |
| 100% | 82% | 88%</ | | | | | | |

Forecasters believe equities are already discounting the worst Outlook fair for shares after storms

Market professionals believe the early part of 1991 will be hardly changed from last year, but they do see hope beyond the recession

STOCK market professionals are showing even greater unanimity than usual as they look forward into 1991. The next 12 months for many people are clearly not going to be a lot of fun. But equities, most believe, are already discounting the worst, and the end of the year could see some fair rises in share prices as the market starts to look beyond the recession.

Such a long view is typical of equity strategists and fund managers, who operate in a market which is reckoned to be looking 18 months ahead of current events. It takes a degree of bravery to put such thoughts on record, even if that is exactly what such professionals are paid for, and it would, therefore, be churlish to name the securities houses which a year ago forecast that the FT-SE index would close 1990 at 2,900.

For the record, the closing calculation on New Year's Eve was 2,143.5, down from 1989's 2,434.1. Base rates are currently 14 per cent, and the last retail price inflation figure was 9.8 per cent.

Roger Harvey, joint head of research at Kleinwort Benson, is looking for a rough start to 1991, assuming the uncertainties continue over the Gulf and the Soviet Union.

"Then we will be running into the Budget, and they have to make up their minds whether it's appropriate to give some sort of stimulus to the economy." This will put further downward pressure on interest rates. "As the year goes on, we would expect the stock market to become increasingly more cheerful, against a background of falling inflation."

By the end of 1991, Kleinwort is looking for retail price inflation at an annual 5 per cent, interest rates at 12 per cent and a point off the yield on gilts. The FT-SE index is

tentatively forecast at 2,700, but Mr Harvey stresses this is dependent on the resolution of various uncertainties, not least the timing and the outcome of the election.

Kleinwort likes Thames Water and British Gas for their earnings certainty and Wimpey and General Accident as recovery stocks. Also favoured are Glaxo, Kingfisher, Grand Metropolitan and Rascal Telecom.

Jerry Evans, economic strategist at County NatWest, agrees that 1991 will be tough, starting badly but picking up after the summer. Dividends will be under pressure and companies will announce appalling results.

But he sees interest rates falling swiftly in 1991 with the bulk of the cuts coming in the first six months and base rates ending the year at about 12 per cent. Inflation will also fall rapidly, and he predicts a rate of 5.5 per cent by the end of 1991.

He sees the FT-SE 100 ending the year at about 2,650, with shares which benefit from interest rate cuts performing best. His tips are the small cash-rich housebuilders, such as Cala and Galliford, and among Alpha stocks, Marley, Tarmac and Hanson.

But he would avoid the stores and property sectors. "They are in such a bad state that it will take until 1992 for them to recover."

Mike Howell, European equity strategist at Salomon Brothers, says the stock market will be significantly stronger in 1991, the FT-SE 100 ending the year at 2,750. The recovery in the markets will pre-date economic recovery by several months with the anticipated trough in the economy coming in mid-1991.

The bulk of the falls in interest rates and inflation will come in the first half, base rates ending the year at 11 per cent



Favourites: clockwise from top left, Roy Watts (Thames Water), Robert Evans (British Gas), Sir Allen Sheppard (Grand Metropolitan) and Sir Eric Pomfret (Tarmac)

and inflation falling to 5 per cent having hit its low of 4.1 per cent in October.

The downturn in companies' profits will continue into the first half but he predicts the recovery will be led by the building, construction and electrical sectors. The case in the last six recessions. Portfolios should stay broadly based, he says, but he is tipping companies such as GEC, Tarmac, Redland and Steelclay for 1991.

Max Ward, partner in charge of UK equities at Balfour Gifford & Co, picks Reuters as his nap. He thinks the abrupt fall in the share price has been overdone, with the company set to benefit immediately

from any revival in confidence in financial markets.

The better-run banks are a less high-risk recommendation, principally Lloyds and Barclays, where the level of losses from bad loans should be manageable. By the end of the year, the shares could see a strong recovery as the market looks forward. He is generally bullish for equities. "We would expect equities to do better than cash and better than bonds. We're at the point in the economic cycle where, typically, equities markets tend to do well. I think you could quite easily see the FT-SE around the 2,600 level at the end of the year."

Jim Stride, a senior fund

manager at Sun Life, believes it will be a tricky year for equities, regardless of the Gulf crisis. "There will be plenty of ammunition for optimists and pessimists. But companies offering investors an above average yield with relative solidity of earnings will be the most attractive. They may not set the world alight but neither will they bring the investor to any great harm." For example, the electricity companies offer a good return to investors, he believes, especially the more yield-orientated stocks such as Northern and Norweb.

"Optimism will grow as the year progresses and investors realise that the worst has already passed and interest

rates come down sharply, to possibly as low as 10 per cent. But this will not necessarily be translated into sharp moves in equity prices."

The FT-SE index will finish the year within 10 per cent of its current level in either direction, he says, with the possibility of major buying opportunities in the event of a military flare up in the Gulf. "Contra-cyclicalists should nibble at bank shares," he adds, with NatWest his favourite choice.

David Barker, managing director of Royal Insurance Asset Management, expects the equity market to be pretty grim for the first half, although most of that is discounted in share prices. But he thinks there is too much complacency about the Gulf, the consequences of a war would be unpredictable, would cause more than a blip and are not yet in the market.

The debate over dividends has not really reached the market, either. Many companies have been paying uncomfortably high dividends under pressure from greedy institutional shareholders, and the feeling that payouts will continue to grow has given a false sense of security that will be questioned by the recession in earnings, he believes. There can be no presumption that the dividend growth of the Eighties will continue in the Nineties.

"We shall not lose faith with equities. Prices are likely to be higher in a year's time, but investors may be able to get in cheaper in between."

Simon Clegg and Bob Pringle, at Heare Govett, expects the bounce seen since the start of November to continue into 1991, pushing the FT-SE to 2,600 during the first half of the year, assuming interest rates and inflation down to 11.5 per cent and 4.3 per cent respectively by the end of the year.

Their selections for 1991 are Carillon Communications, Eurotunnel, Grand Metropolitan, ICI, Queens Moat Houses, Reuters, Shell, Smith Kline Beecham, South Wales Electricity, Storehouse, Tarmac and Willis Corroon.

Julian Baring, of James Capel Gold and General Fund, tips War Loan, currently £34, because "1991 could be the year for gilts". He believes that if a recession looms and interest rates fall, then investors would serve themselves well with an investment instrument that will generate a real return.

and economic pressure. Mr Skeoch thinks base rates may fall to 11.5 per cent by the end of 1991, reflecting lower inflation and improvement in the balance of payments.

Others, however, see less scope for cuts. OEF envisages a situation in which the pressure on the pound could lead the Chancellor with the choice of raising interest rates or devaluing the pound.

The current account deficit, which the Treasury expects to narrow to £11 billion this year from £15.1 billion last year, is regarded as not unrealistic, given the impact the recession has had on domestic demand.

The truly bright spot amid the economic gloom will be inflation, with the Treasury forecast of retail price inflation running at an annual 5.5 per cent in the final quarter looking easily achievable.

Bill Martin, chief economist at Phillips & Drew, expects it to drop to 4.5 per cent from its near-11 per cent peak last year.

Mr MacKinnon expects it could even go as low as 3.7 per cent.

Lower inflation is bright spot in gloom

ECONOMISTS enter 1991 far gloomier about the outlook than they were before Britain entered the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System three months ago.

Mounting evidence of an economy plunging into severe recession has accompanied the realisation that ERM membership has tied the government's hands where much-needed cuts in interest rates are concerned.

This reduced room for manoeuvre is widely seen to have left Norman Lamont unable to deliver rapid interest rate cuts in the run-up to the next general election. This means a more prolonged recession than there would have been had the pound stayed outside the parity grid.

The Treasury forecast for 1991 in the autumn statement now appears wildly optimistic on economic growth. The mild technical recession foreseen by Whitehall still left the gross domestic product growing by 0.5 per cent next year after 1.0 per cent in 1990.

The anticipated fall of 1.75

Recession will be deeper and longer than forecast because of ERM entry, says Colin Narbrough

per cent in fixed investment and the sharp narrowing of the trade gap both gave a much more benign reading of the path the economy will follow than that expected by non-Treasury forecasters.

Only on headline inflation, which the Treasury expects to fall to an annual 5.5 per cent in the fourth quarter, do the government's main predictions enjoy street credibility.

Even Ernst & Young's ITEM Club, which uses the Treasury's forecasting model, thinks the recession will be deeper and longer than forecast in the autumn statement.

Driven by a 5 per cent fall in fixed investment by the corporate sector this year, ITEM expects only 0.1 per cent GDP growth this year. With investment stagnant the year after, GDP is seen growing by a modest 2.3 per cent in 1992.

But other forecasters are more pessimistic on growth.

Neil McKinnon, chief economist at Yamaichi Securities, expects GDP to slump a full percentage point this year, a view shared by Andrew Sentance, associate economics director at the Confederation of British Industry.

Oxford Economic Forecasting (OEF) expects the economy to shrink 0.3 per cent this year, but fears it will be stuck well below its growth potential in the years ahead, managing only just over 1 per cent growth in 1992 and 1993, the worst growth of the leading industrial economies.

As the recession deepens, unemployment is expected to rise back above 2 million this year. Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, predicts a dramatic jump to a seasonally adjusted 2 million by mid-year, climbing to 2.2 million by the end.

Mr MacKinnon has the jobless total at 2.5 million by

year-end, but expects it to move close to 3 million in 1992. The latest official figures show 1.76 million out of work.

Expectations for interest rates have also been revised heavily in recent months, as the honeymoon for the pound after ERM entry proved short-lived. Where previous forecasts had looked forward to a quick succession of interest rate cuts to brake the economic slide, the government has so far had to content itself with the one-point cut in base rate in October. OEF and some City forecasters believe pressure on sterling could even lead to interest rates being raised this year.

Peter Spencer, UK economist at Shearson Lehman, believes base rates could be unchanged at 14 per cent at the time of the budget. But most economists foresee further cuts as the government comes under intense political

cost, still to take, John Craven, chairman of Morgan Grenfell, becomes a member of the Ancient Order of Shepherds. Two years ago, amid much criticism, he withdrew

from UK equities, and missed out on a family safari holiday to boot, spending Christmas alone. The state of the UK equity market, with most firms still losing money, has more than vindicated his stand.

ALSO deserving recognition is Manny Silverman, chief executive of Moss Bros until he was cruelly shown the door

STOCK MARKET

Insurers feel the cold from weather fears and GRE profits warning

DETERIORATING weather and a profits warning from Guardian Royal Exchange sent a shiver through the insurance sector.

Last year's gales and flooding resulted in losses for the industry of more than £2 billion. Analysts are now hoping that there will not be a repeat performance. The general backdrop for the sector remains depressed with premiums around the world under pressure. Conditions in America are still in decline and Europe is also described as flat with few signs of an upturn.

Scouring, the security and cleaning group, ended 1990 at 56p - just off its all-time low. The group gave two profit warnings in as many months in the past year and Alan Baldwin, chairman, may try to put together a management buyout. A bid from ADT is also on the cards.

Guardian Royal Exchange added to the gloom, losing 1p to 182p, after issuing a warning that trading conditions in the second half had deteriorated and that this would be reflected in the figures. Analysts are already forecasting losses of £140 million for the current year and further downgradings are expected.

Falls were also seen in Commercial Union, which lost 7p to 458p, General Accident, 8p to 472p, Royal Insurance, 4p to 393p, and Sun Alliance, 3p to 330p.

The rest of the equity market ended the last trading day of 1990 on a dull note with share prices losing ground throughout the shortened session. Worries about the situation in the Middle East, a threatened rise in German interest rates, and the general apathy displayed by those who had bothered to make the journey to work, saw prices marked lower.

The unwinding of positions in the futures and options market also depressed sentiment. The FT-SE 100 index fell 16.9 to 2,143.5 with only 128.4 million shares traded - the lowest total of the year. The fall in the index during 1990 was 290.6.

The FT index of 30 shares lost 11.5 to 1,673.7. Government securities remained depressed as hopes of a cut in interest rates continued to fade. Prices at the longer end fell about 24.

The long list of leading companies going ex-dividend accounted for about 5.4 points of the fall in the index. They included Hanson, down 10 1/2p to 184 1/2p, Granada Group, 10p cheaper at 180p, Burton Group, 3p easier at 77p, and British Telecommunications, 8p at 284p.

The water companies ran into an early bout of profitability from which they failed to recover. Last week they attracted institutional support because of their defensive qualities and strong yields. There were losses for Anglian, 3p to 271p, Northumbrian, 1p to 279p, North West, 3p to 268p, Severn Trent, 3p to 244p, Southern, 2p to 248p, South West, 1p to 263p, Thames, 2p to 273p, Welsh, 2p to 275p, Wessex, 2p to 262p, and Yorkshire, 3p to 267p. The water package fell £30 to £2,640.

The electricity companies continued to lose ground in early trading as dealers reported that private investors were continuing to cash in their profits after receiving their share certificates. But selling pressure was light and soon dried up, allowing some prices to close better on the day.

Small gains were achieved in Eastern, 1p to 138p on turnover of 3 million shares, East Midland, 1p to 146p (2.7 million), London, 1p to 139p (2.4 million), Norweb, 2p to

County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, has listed 30 stocks it believes will outperform the market on a three-to-six-month view. The list includes Tarmac, 1p up at 248p, Ladbroke, down 2p at 246p, Smith & Nephew, unchanged at 104 1/2p and Willis Corroon, 6 1/2p up at 279p.

148p (1.6 million), Seeboard, 2p to 143p (2.7 million), Southern, 3p to 141p (3.1 million), Midland held steady at 138p (1.7 million), as did Northern, on 147p (1.3 million) and Yorkshire on 158 1/2p (3.1 million). But there were losses for Manx, 3p to 165p (1.9 million), South Wales, 24p to 168p (1.7 million), and South West, 1p to 168p (1.5 million). The electricity package spent a nervous session, clawing back an early fall to finish £7 higher at £1,465 after briefly touching £1,475.

MICHAEL CLARK

WALL STREET

Setback for Dow after early advance

NEW YORK SHARE prices edged higher in tentative early trading, supported by a firm bond market. However, by mid-morning the average lost its early advantage and started to slip lower.

The closure of many overseas markets and Wall Street's thin holiday attendance is likely to keep activity light, analysts said.

The Dow was down 2.97 points to 2,626.24.

"At the moment, we're in a peaceful mode," said one trader. "It looks like a steady opening." The Major Market Index futures contract opened higher, suggesting early strength in stocks.

Toys "R" Us topped the active list, rising \$4 to \$22.4. MNC Financial, which said it will not pay dividends on its preferred and common stock for the fourth quarter, slipped \$1 to \$34.

HK slides in absence of institutions

HONG KONG shares slid throughout the morning as local day-traders ran the market, which was virtually absent of institutional investors, brokers said.

"There's no institutional activity today whatsoever," a broker at an American securities house said. "They've already closed their books. Some small guys still want to get out but the thin trade has exaggerated the downward movement," he said.

The blue-chip Hang Seng index fell 29.18 points to 3,024.55 and the broader-based Hong Kong index 18.74 to 1,982.88.

Turnover stood at HK\$279.22 million against HK\$338.36 million all day on Friday.

Reuter

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Alternatives time

THE official New Year's honours list is again behind us and thus the time has come to unveil the City Diary's alternative honours list. Instead of a knighthood, our nominees will receive an infinitely more preferable magnum of Krug Grand Cuvée champagne.

AT THE end of a testing year, in both the City and business world, our thoughts at this time should perhaps first turn to those forcibly separated from their families - such as the soldiers in the Gulf or the fallen stars of the City and business world now incarcerated in jail. Of the latter, far too numerous to list, the Order of Porridge must surely go to Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International and a director of more than 100 other associated companies, for not allowing a mere prison sentence to interfere with business life. With his wife acting as go-between, his management style is said to be as "hands on" as ever. Ronson OP - as he will now be known - is now unlikely to ever

receive the real New Year's honour he once so coveted.

THE Crystal Ball Award, for an exceptional display of business foresight, goes to Philip Green, the likeable former chief executive of Colclough, Guardian's young business- man of the year - an ominous award given to his former chairman John Ashcroft in 1987 - he was nevertheless declared one of 40 under-40s to watch by Business magazine in October 1989. At the time, Green is reported to



"And a very happy new year to you, too."

have said: "I'm unlikely to be satisfied if I'm doing the same job for the same size business for the next ten years." Eight months later, Colclough went into receivership with debts of up to £400 million.

BACK to the heart of the City, to soften the blow of having experienced a crash more times than anyone else in the Square Mile, Terry "Twiggy" Buckland, deserves the Bottoms Up - or rather Down - award. But much to the relief of his employers, UBS Phillips & Drew, since he is the dealing director for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, these crashes had nothing to do with his in-house equity book. I refer of course to his as yet unsuccessful attempts to sit upon the antique Louis XV chairs in the private dining room at Warburg Securities without breaking them. Buckland, at 6ft 7ins and "17 and a bit stones", is one of the largest men in the market, and has resorted to carrying his shooting stick, in case of future mishaps.

IN RECOGNITION that he was, with hindsight, brave enough to take a decision many others have, at huge

cost, still to take, John Craven, chairman of Morgan Grenfell, becomes a member of the Ancient Order of Shepherds. Two years ago, amid much criticism, he withdrew



from UK equities, and missed out on a family safari holiday to boot, spending Christmas alone. The state of the UK equity market, with most firms still losing money, has more than vindicated his stand.

by the Moss family. He has long since bounced back, salvaging Royal dress designer Norman Hartnell from the receiver, and pulling off the ultimate coup by persuading Marc Bohan of Christian Dior in Paris to become its couturier. Bohan, a favourite designer and close friend of Princess Caroline of Monaco, is expected to transform the London fashion scene when he unveils his first Hartnell collection at Claridges this month. To Silverman goes the Rag Trade Revenge award.

AND finally, although he has just received a knighthood, a peerage cannot be far away for Alastair Morton, chairman of Eurotunnel. Exhausted and ageing fast, Morton has nevertheless succeeded where the French and British governments had failed for more than 100 years. Unlike so many knights who effectively bought their honours with donations to political parties and charities, Morton paid for his with his own blood, sweat and tears. What better way for him to celebrate than with a magnum of France's finest champagne...

CAROL LEONARD

Failure at Gatt 'may threaten 30,000 jobs'

FAILURE in the resumed Gatt talks this month could threaten 30,000 jobs in Britain's food and drink industry. The Food and Drink Federation, the umbrella body for the British industry, said success at the talks is vital to the £2 billion annual UK food and drink export business. Simon Harris, chairman of the federation's international trade working party, said: "Without a successful outcome we are likely to have a series of trade wars with many foodstuffs being the first to suffer."

Boost for pound

The pound saw the year out boosted by weekend remarks from Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, which appeared to rule out an early cut in interest rates, or a devaluation of sterling within the European exchange-rate mechanism. Though the currency climbed close to DM2.89 at its best, after closing at DM2.8768 last Friday, its gains came in an extremely thin market.

Loan for Lismo

Lismo, the oil exploration and production concern, has ended 1990 the way it began - raising cash. The company has arranged a 13-year £175 million floating-rate loan facility with Barclays Bank, to be drawn down during 1991. The company's shares fell 3p to 37p.

Key to Regina

Shareholders in Regina Health and Beauty Products, the USM company that markets royal jelly, have approved resolutions that will allow Shiraz Malik-Noor, a new investor, to exercise options that could give him effective control.

IBA transfer

The engineering operations of the Independent Broadcasting Authority have been transferred to National Telecommunications, a new holding company, as part of the preparation for their sale to the private sector.

Lloyd's rates up

Lloyd's underwriters are increasing their war-risk hull rates for the Gulf region from today. The move anticipates the risk of war after the January 15 UN deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

BA pulls out of joint venture with KLM and Sabena



King: seeking direct link

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Airways has abandoned its planned £34 million investment in a new Brussels-based business airline. The company said it had agreed to dissolve the venture with KLM of The Netherlands and Sabena which was meant to create a new hub-and-spoke airline linking 75 cities throughout Europe through a central junction in the Belgian capital.

But the door has been left open for direct talks to continue between

Sabena, which is the Belgian national carrier, and British Airways in the hope of establishing a more direct link between the two.

Under the original plan, Sabena World Airlines would have bought a further 42 short-haul aircraft to provide a Europe-wide "bus service", ferrying businessmen from city centre to city centre via Brussels.

The plan also foresaw the need for a big redevelopment of Brussels airport itself, all of which is now being put on ice while a new scheme - probably a much more tangible

link between British Airways, headed by Lord King, and Sabena - is put into place.

The deal, in which British Airways and KLM would each have a 20 per cent stake, with Sabena controlling the rest, was conceived more than a year ago and should have been in place by now.

However, a combination of continued heavy losses at Sabena, bureaucratic interference by the European Commission and general financial problems faced by most world airlines brought the plans to an end. After a board meeting

yesterday, British Airways' deputy chairman and chief executive, Sir Colin Marshall, said the venture had been dissolved "with regret" because it had encountered "practical difficulties in completing it within the original time frame".

Privately, British Airways is unlikely to shed too many tears over the collapse of the deal.

The scheme had been regarded by many as "pie in the sky" and was clearly offending both the EC and many airline rivals who regarded it as another example of British Airways flexing its muscles within

Europe. With all airlines now having to cut back on spending, shareholders and investors in all three airlines will be delighted to hear that the millions put up to back a venture that was fraught with potential difficulties are now being returned.

At the same time, Pierre Godfroid, Sabena's chairman who took over the troubled airline only in November, is clearly trying to abandon all the schemes and ideas formulated by the old board and start again in an attempt to make the airline profitable.

Resignations expected at Polly Peck

By ANGELA MACKAY

FOUR executive directors of Polly Peck International, including Asil Nadir, the chairman and chief executive, and at least four non-executive directors, are expected to resign imminently from the fresh fruit, hotels and electronics group.

Their departure, under pressure from the company's administrators, will mark a new phase in Polly Peck's abrupt metamorphosis from

market high flyer. In addition to Mr Nadir, three executive directors are also expected to resign. They are believed to be David Fawcus, group finance director; Mark Ellis, who runs the company's American operations; and Radar Reshad, the director of agriculture and food.

Most of Polly Peck's five non-executive directors are also expected to be affected: Neil Mills, a former director of Midland Bank; Larry Tindale, who is the deputy

chairman of 3i; Ulf Siebel, a banker and lawyer, and Sir Michael Sandberg, former chairman of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The resignations have been tipped since the company went into administration in October with debts of £1.3 billion. Administration effectively vests the management of a company in the accountants appointed by the court, in this case Richard Stone and Michael Jordan, from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, and Christopher Morris, from Touche Ross.

The administrators have been public in their thanks for the help they have received so far from senior Polly Peck executives including Mr Nadir. However, with investigations by the Serious Fraud Office intensifying over the past two weeks, co-operation has been hampered.

Two weeks ago, Mr Nadir was arrested and charged with 18 offences of theft and false accounting amounting to more than £25 million. He was later freed on bail of £3.5 million.

He had been helping the administrators to unlock information on the company's considerable assets in Turkey and northern Cyprus but Mr Nadir's missions to that region have been curtailed by the terms of his bail.

The four executive directors between them have annual salaries of just over £1 million while the non-executive directors receive less than £30,000 each.

Mr Nadir's personal fortune, once estimated at more than £200 million has been depleted by his company's problems. He owns a 25 per cent stake in Polly Peck but was unable to meet his commitments on the last few share purchases. As a result, a personal bankruptcy application was brought by BZW and Lehman Brothers, between them owed £22 million. The hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Shares in Polly Peck were suspended at 108p on September 21 after news that the fraud squad had raided the offices of South Audley Management, an investment company owned by a Nadir family trust.

Initially, the administrators believed that some £200 million was on deposit in northern Cyprus, however this has been discounted.

That this money is no longer easily obtainable has made the administrators' job more urgent, and the prospect of the company's 70 banks being repaid a respectable proportion of their debt more remote.



Independent supporters Bernie Kingsley, Annelise Jespersen and Steve Davies leave the ground yesterday

Spurs shareholders ruled offside

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ANGRY Tottenham Hotspur shareholders were denied the chance to question the three directors present at a stormy meeting.

Microphones were turned off as Douglas Alexiou, acting chairman, Frank Sinclair and Ian Gray, directors, refused to accept questions from the floor. They claimed they were not in a position to take enquiries because of insufficient information.

Irving Scholar, chairman of the football club, but no longer on the board of the holding company, did not attend the

meeting, even though he owns 26 per cent of the shares.

However, he was present at the White Hart Lane ground.

More than 60 shareholders attended the extraordinary meeting, which the board was obliged to call before the year-end to fulfil company law requirements. Only one motion, calling for the meeting to be adjourned until further notice, was on the agenda.

This was initially rejected on a show of hands, but it was carried by a large majority on a proxy vote. Including proxies held by Mr Alexiou, the motion received 3.7 million

votes in favour, compared with 43,000 against.

"As an information exercise the meeting was absolutely disgraceful," said Stephen Finner, a shareholder. Other shareholders described the meeting as "disgusting" and "unbelievable for the average supporter".

A further meeting will be called in the new year. Bernie Kingsley, of the Tottenham Independent Supporters Association, said the Tottenham board had been prepared to give only seven days' notice of the meeting despite shareholder calls for 21 days' notice.

"People are very angry," he said. Shareholders have yet to receive a report and accounts for the financial year to May, although the club has said it will report "a significant overall loss" for the period and that it has breached the covenants on its £12 million borrowings.

The club ran into financial difficulties through diversification into unsuccessful leisure and sports ventures and had substantial cost overruns on a new stand at its north London stadium. Shares in the company were suspended in October.

Comet to sue BSKyB for £10m

By OUR CITY STAFF

COMET, the electrical retailer which is part of Kingfisher, has issued a High Court writ, claiming about £10 million damages from British Sky Broadcasting.

Nigel Whitaker, Kingfisher's corporate affairs director, said the group was seeking redress for breach of contract. He said Comet signed a contract with British Satellite Broadcasting in March. Comet agreed to promote BSB's channels in return for a 2.5 per cent share in the company.

A spokeswoman for BSKyB said the group would not comment on legal matters. Comet has sold 17,000 of the red-tinted BSB dishes and has several thousand in stock. Mr Whitaker said BSKyB had agreed to replace BSB dishes with BSKyB dishes, but there was about £100 difference in price. People who had bought both BSB and Sky dishes would not be compensated.

Telfos to meet Austrians over stake-building

By MARTIN BARROW

TELLOS Holdings, the railway engineering group, is planning talks with Austria's Jenbacher Werke, which is believed to hold a near-2 per cent stake in the company.

Stephen Cockburn, non-executive chairman of Telfos, said a meeting was scheduled for the second week of January, in London. "We want to find out what their intentions are at this stage," he said.

IMI Securities, the British broking arm of Istituto Mobiliare Italiano, has been acquiring shares in Telfos for an overseas client, widely believed to be Jenbacher. A third, unidentified party is thought to have acquired another 2.5 per cent.

East European interest centres on Telfos's 51 per cent stake in Ganz-Hunslet, a joint venture with Hungary's state-owned Ganz electrical engineering group, as well as its contracts from British Rail. Shares in Telfos fell 7p to

103p after the company announced that it was passing a preference share dividend payment due tomorrow because it lacks sufficient distributable reserves.

The deficit arises from the company's decision, announced in November, to provide £7.1 million against loss-making investment and property activities that are now for sale. Telfos was estimated to have about £10 million in the bank at the interim stage and remains cash-positive, although it is unable by law to use these deposits to pay the preference dividend.

Directors had hoped to complete a disposal in time to pay the dividend. The current financial year has been extended by three months to March 31, 1991, "to allow further substantial progress to be made in the present programme of disposal of non-core investments and activities."

Further provisions will be made for the full year. Earlier this month Telfos agreed to sell its investment in Euro-magnetics Holdings to Virgin Management, its partner in the joint venture, for a nominal £1, having already provided £1.9 million against the full cost of the investment. However, contingent liabilities of £2.1 million have been called, exceeding the earlier provision by £1.6 million.

Mr Cockburn said it was likely that some provisions may be found to exceed losses made on the realisation of other investments but it was too early to write back any.

The deferred dividend would be paid "as soon as it is legally possible".
● Budapest: From tomorrow joint ventures with foreign companies no longer need a state licence. Tax breaks for new foreign joint ventures have been tightened so that only business deemed especially important for the Hungarian economy will qualify. (Reuters)

| THE POUND | |
|----------------|------------------|
| US dollar | 1.9280 (+0.0057) |
| German mark | 2.8867 (+0.0088) |
| Exchange index | 93.7 (+0.5) |

| STOCK MARKET | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| FT 30 Share | 1673.7 (-11.5) |
| FT-SE 100 | 2143.5 (-16.9) |
| New York Dow Jones | 2621.29 (-7.92) |

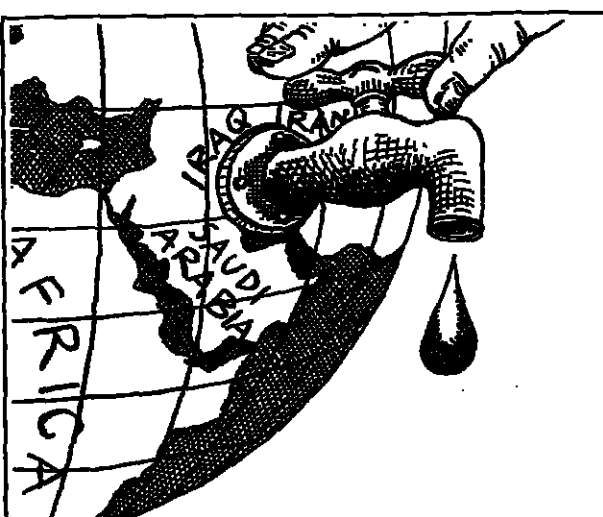
| INTEREST RATES | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| London: Bank Base | 14% |
| 3-month interbank | 14 1/4-14 1/2% |
| 3-month eligible bills | 13 1/2-13 3/4% |
| US: Prime Rate | 10% |
| Federal Funds 5 1/4% | |
| 3-month Treasury Bill | 6.44-6.43% |
| 30-year bonds | 10 1/2-10 1/4% |

| CURRENCIES | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| London: | New York: |
| £: \$1.9280 | £: \$1.9285 |
| £: DM2.8867 | £: DM1.4967 |
| £: Sfr2.4521 | £: Sfr2.2755 |
| £: FF5.8184 | £: FF5.0955 |
| £: Yen216.29 | £: Yen135.75 |
| £: Index93.7 | £: Index61.4 |
| £: SDR 20.74040 | SDR 20.74040 |
| £: ECU 1.12748 | £: SDR1 34399 |

| GOLD | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| London Fixing: | |
| AM \$391.00 pm \$391.00 | (202 75-203 50) |
| New York: | |
| Comex \$392.25-392.75 | |

| NORTH SEA OIL | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Brent (Jan) | \$29.10 bbl (\$27.80) |

| TOURIST RATES | |
|-----------------|------|
| Australia \$ | Bank |
| Austria Sch | Bank |
| Belgium Fr | Bank |
| Canada \$ | Bank |
| Denmark Kr | Bank |
| France Fr | Bank |
| Germany DM | Bank |
| Greece Dr | Bank |
| Hong Kong \$ | Bank |
| India Rupee | Bank |
| Italy Lira | Bank |
| Japan Yen | Bank |
| Netherlands Gld | Bank |
| Norway Kr | Bank |
| Sweden Kr | Bank |
| Switzerland Fr | Bank |
| USA \$ | Bank |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | Bank |



One compelling reason for a diversified energy programme

The Middle East holds two-thirds of known oil reserves. Any instability in the region puts the world's oil markets on edge. And when oil prices start to rise, those of gas generally follow suit. By contrast the cost of nuclear power is unlikely to be affected by events in the Gulf. Uranium for Britain's nuclear power stations is mined in countries such as Canada,

Australia and the USA. And the quantities of uranium needed are so small it is easy to keep supplies in reserve. It would be unwise to assume that the present oil crisis will be the last. It's reassuring, therefore, to know that nuclear power can help stabilise Britain's energy costs. If you would like to know more about nuclear energy, please send for our information pack.

Tel: 081-205 7090 for a free information pack.

Or write to: The British Nuclear Forum, 22 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB.

BRITISH NUCLEAR FORUM
The voice of Britain's nuclear power industry.

Market report, page 25

'Be courageous' call by ICI chief

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

COMPANIES will need to keep cool and be courageous in the coming year as the recession provides British industry with a particularly testing time, one of Britain's leading industrialists says today.

But Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's largest chemical company, also strikes an optimistic note for British industry by predicting that companies such as ICI will come through the months ahead in better shape.

In a new year message, which is also being distributed to ICI employees, Sir Denis forecasts that 1991 will be "a testing year for British industry".

The year begins with "ever greater uncertainties about the world's economies, overshadowed by the crisis in the Gulf, and we are entering the old year with business confidence at a much lower level than 12 months ago".

He says that "in the short run,



Sir Denis: 'keep cool' message

businesses will face hard and painful decisions to focus and sharpen their activities". The new year will be a test of quality for many companies.

But he is more optimistic when he says: "In a recession, it always looks as if

things will never pick up - but they always do. In the meantime, we need to keep our courage, keep cool and get our heads down to our key tasks."

ICI itself, with what Sir Denis says is its proven ability to measure up to harsher economic circumstances, "will emerge stronger and more keenly focused than ever".

He added that processes such as the opening up of eastern Europe, the growing strength of the Asia Pacific market and the advent of the single European market at the end of 1992 would not easily be thrown into reverse, and would for many companies provide a solid platform for exciting growth in the years to come.

He said of ICI specifically: "I have no doubt that we shall come through the challenging months ahead in even better shape, for one reason above all others - and that is the quality of ICI people, and the effort and determination we bring to our tasks."